

This is our town

Rio Vista, California



PIONEERS + PROGRESS + PROSPERITY

Dedication

The citizens of Rio Vista, California, pause during summer of 1958 to glance back over the past hundred year's history of OUR TOWN. From a tiny settlement we have prospered to a jewel of a small city on the bank of the Sacramento River. To the pioneer founding fathers who selected the site and to those who planned and labored to bring progress which in turn developed OUR TOWN'S facilities into prosperity, we gratefully dedicate this souvenir edition. They have given us our theme.

PIONEERS * PROGRESS * PROSPERITY



Sol Mogel, Albert "Fum" Jongeneel

Co-Chairmen Centennial Com.

Acknowledgment

We wish to thank the many people who contributed old pictures, photographs and anecdotal material for use in this publication. It was impossible to place them all; some were near duplicates; some were rejected by the printer because they were too faded for good reproduction; others would have suffered necessary trimming. We also beg your indulgence if we failed to narrate some incident or name some person dear to your family. A completely detailed history of OUR TOWN would be a monumental undertaking worthy of the talents of a great historian. Our purpose has been to make a brochure for your amusement.



Designed, compiled and illustrated by Idella R. Church.
Assisted by Paul West, Roy Herburger, William Foster
and Henry Wilkinson.

Idella

Table Of Contents

We have divided our little book into six sections

- I. Introduction
- II. As We Were
- III. Growing Pains
- IV. Good Neighbors
- V. As We Are Today
- VI. The Centennial Celebration

Our plan is to issue a set of supplementary pages which will be made from photographs taken during the last week of the celebration. These will be available to each purchaser of THIS IS OUR TOWN if the inclosed receipt, properly addressed, is presented or mailed to the News Herald office in Rio Vista after about October 20, 1958.

We Present Our Official Family, The Town Council And Associates

A century ago the Town of Rio Vista was formed by hardy pioneers. The trials and tribulations of those sturdy souls were many. As we look back into the early day history of our fair City we are convinced that our ancestors had tremendous courage and faith and that the Almighty above was always with them in their struggle to build a City that their children and their children's children would be proud of. They succeeded and today Rio Vista, 100 years from its inception, is one of the most beautiful cities in California.

Rio Vista is, in this year of 1958, celebrating its Centennial and we are very proud that so many of our citizens are taking such an active part to make the various celebration programs and this Centennial book a grand success.

Sincerely,
James W. Hamilton, Jr.
MAYOR OF RIO VISTA

L. to R.

Carl Kelly, Treasurer

James W. Hamilton Jr.,
Mayor

Harry Valente, Clerk

Sol Mogel, Councilmar

Elmer G. Wendt, Councilman

A. T. Brooks, Councilman

Malcolm McKinnon,
Councilman

Raymond F. Barth,
City Engineer

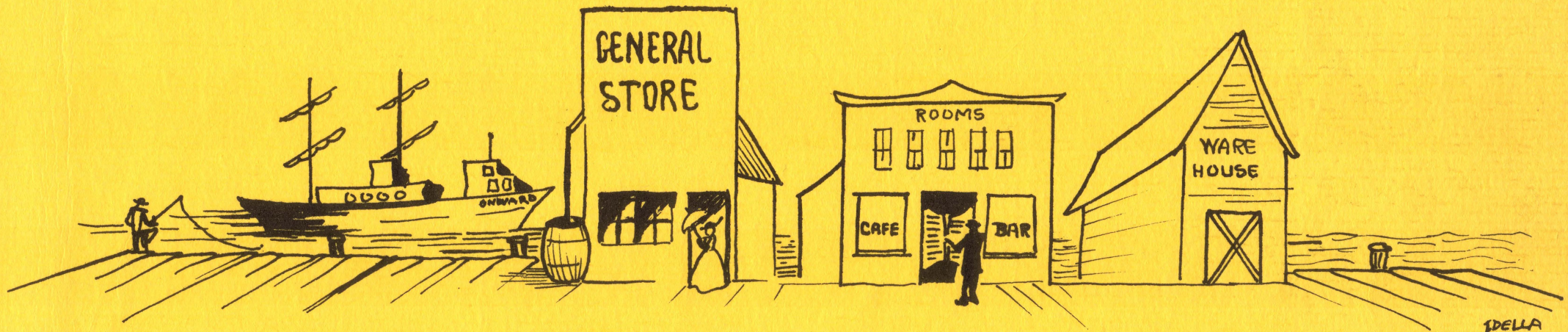
Kenneth I. Jones, City
Attorney

Martin Christensen,
First Mayor 1894

Judge C. W. Flodin.



AS WE WERE



IN THE GOOD OLE DAYS

Our Earliest Record

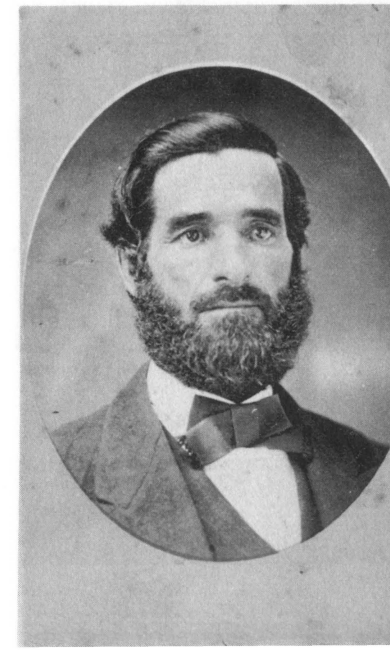
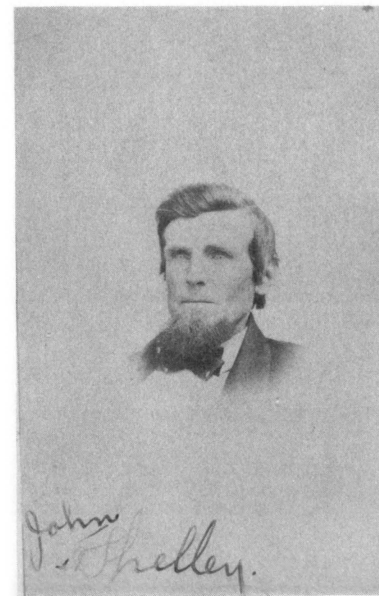
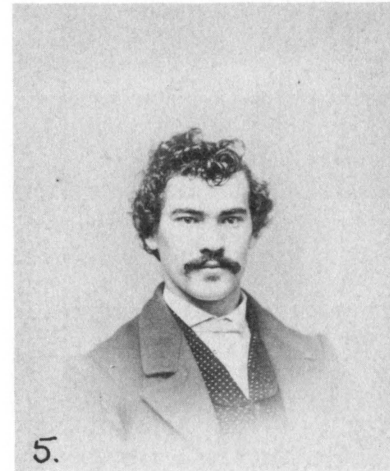
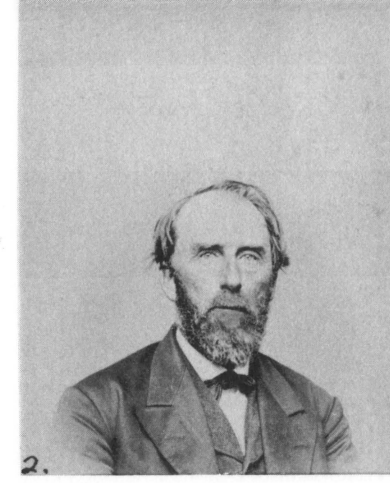
In the year 1846 a party of immigrants came to the Sacramento Valley seeking a new home. A general, John Bidwell by name owned a piece of land at Cache Slough. The group pitched tents on this property and prepared for a long, hard winter. By interchanging food with the local indians the party was able to survive. Only indian excavations mark this site.

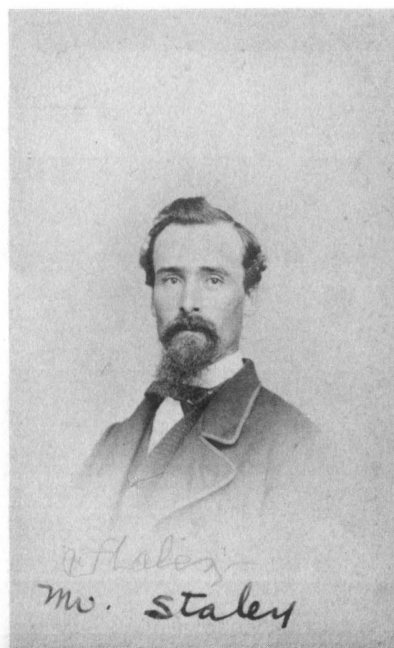
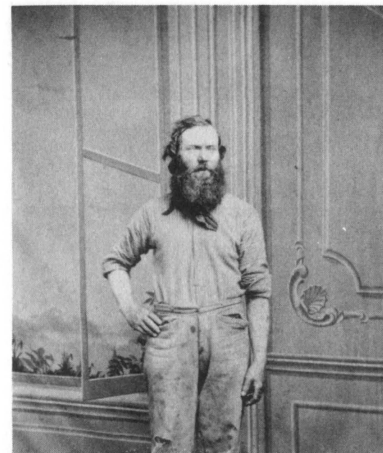
In the fall of 1857 Col. N. H. Davis surveyed a "New Town" which was a few hundred yards downstream.

John Sidwell was hired by Col. Davis in 1858 to build a wharf which later tied up the steamers which regularly plied the Sacramento River. A post office was established the same year and served the country for twenty miles around.

Salmon were plentiful and shipped out to San Francisco daily.

1. Mrs. Squires
2. W. K. Squires
3. Ida Squires Fiscus
4. Mother of Monroe Perry
5. Monroe Perry
6. Wife of Monroe Perry
7. John Shelly
8. Clara Shelly
9. John Shafer





Then Came The Flood Of 1862

Our new town flourished until the rains came. At first intermittent and finally steadily day and night for weeks the rain fell. By December most of the smaller buildings had been swept away. On January 9th 1862 the water was twelve feet deep at the foot of Main Street. By nightfall not a building was left standing. A southeast gale added to the force of the storm, and giant waves added their force to the destruction.

The survivors with a few meager possessions fled to the hills where they managed to survive. This marked a period of almost unendurable suffering and despair, and equals any hardships suffered by any pioneers in California.

Steamers rescued our drenched pioneers after a few days. All that remains of the village are a few rotting piles that mark the location of the old wharf.

Pictured are

1. The Bob Carters
He later built the
Water Works.
2. Baron Hunt- school
teacher
3. Mr. Giles a merchant
in 1855
4. Frank Chase uncle
of Ed Chase
5. Mrs. Frank Chase
6. Pete Brandon
—Brother-in-law
W. K. Squires
7. Bob Hawley
8. Jack Ingersol
9. Mr. Staley

Our Town Was Moved To Its Present Site

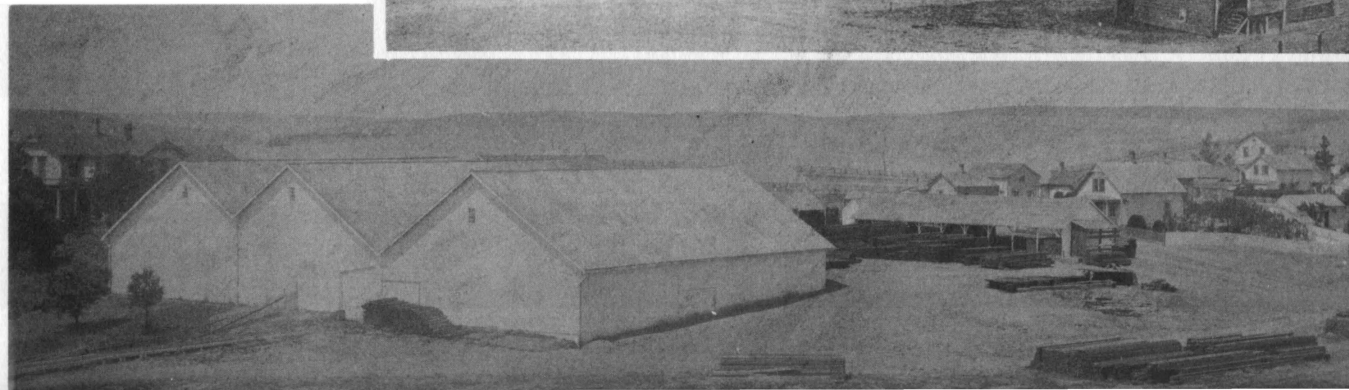
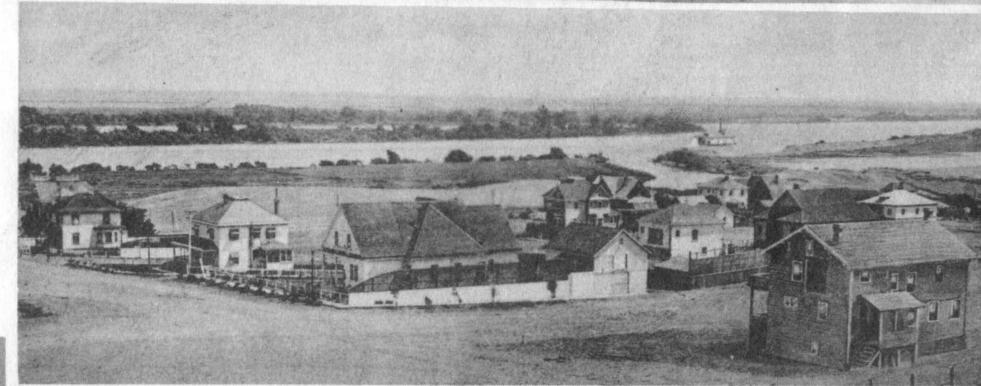
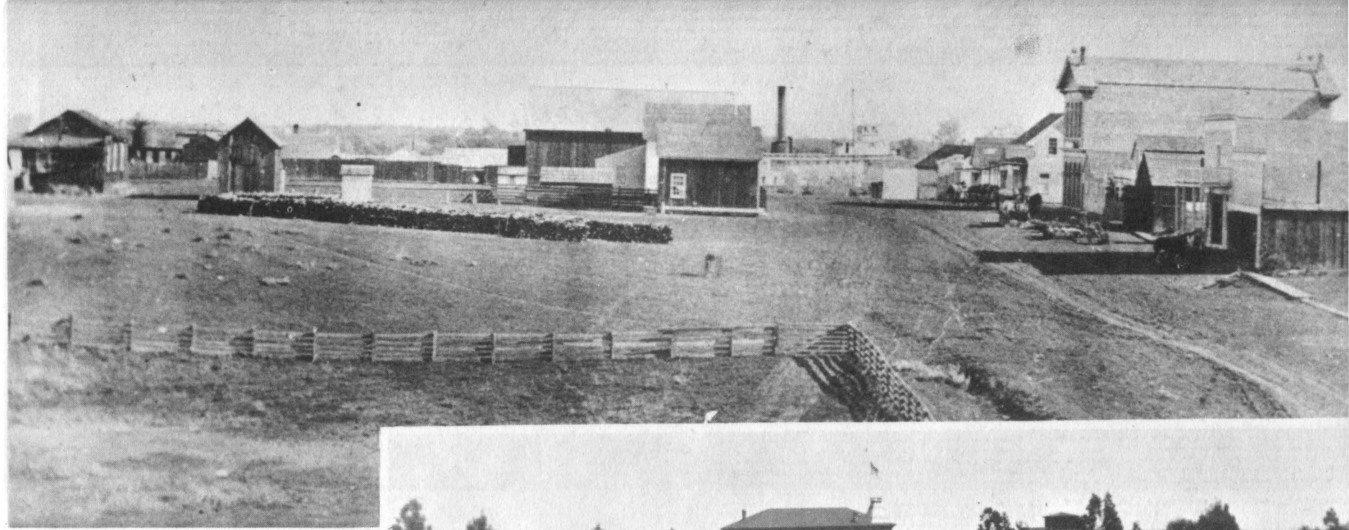
The names W. K. Squires, S. R. Perry, J. M. Sidwell, Isaac Dunham and Joseph Bruning are the recognized founders of Rio Vista.

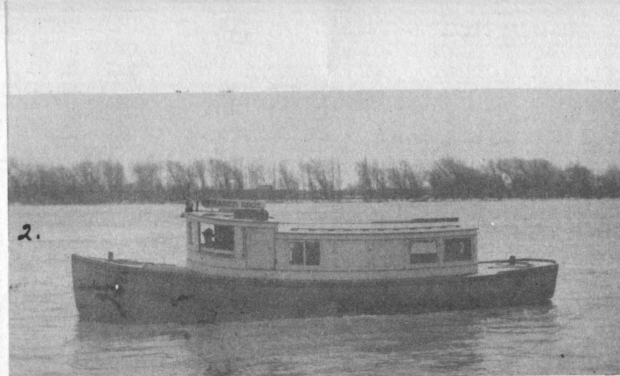
In March of 1862 these hardy pioneers selected the edge of a ranch in the Montezuma hills belonging to Joseph Bruning. T. J. McWorthy then owner of the Gardiner ranch surveyed the property. Our present Main Street is the dividing line between these two parcels of land.

The post office was moved to the new S. K. Perry's Store. A new wharf was built. Both Mr. Squires and Mr. Sidwell built hotels. OUR TOWN was ready once again to face the future.

PICTURES SHOW —

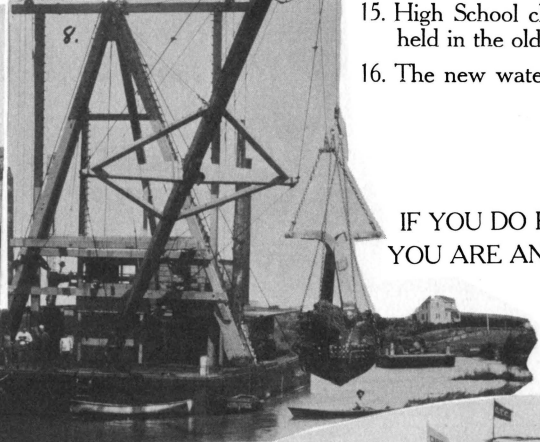
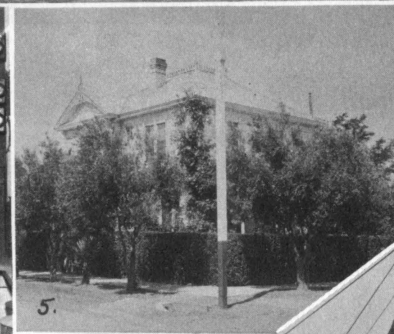
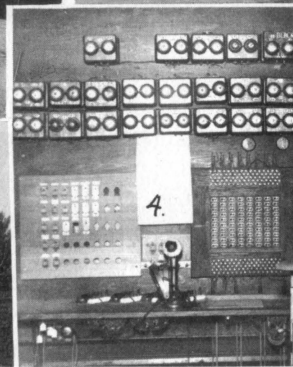
1. Earliest available picture of Rio Vista.
2. An unidentified street 1890.
3. A nice view of Wood Island.
4. Site of the present Asta Trailer Court.



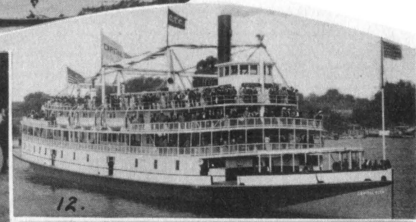
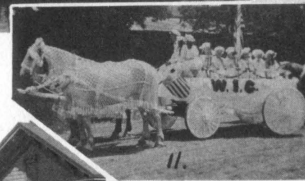
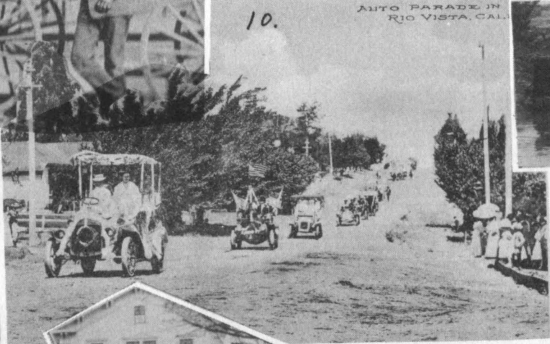


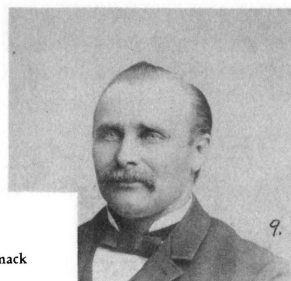
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

1. Rio Vista without a bridge.
2. Fraser Bros. meat boat touring around the islands.
3. ?
4. The operator found your party, no number needed.
5. The Makemson home, the area now a parking lot.
6. Short line connections by bus.
7. South Second St. known as NOB HILL.
8. Dredging a better channel.
9. Residence drive.
10. Parade on Main St.
11. Morticians white horses are commandeered by W.I.C.
12. The best ride to San Francisco was by boat.
13. The St. Joseph's Military Academy.
14. And St. Gertrudes.
15. High School classes were held in the old Masonic Hall.
16. The new water towers.



IF YOU DO REMEMBER, YOU ARE AN OLD TIMER

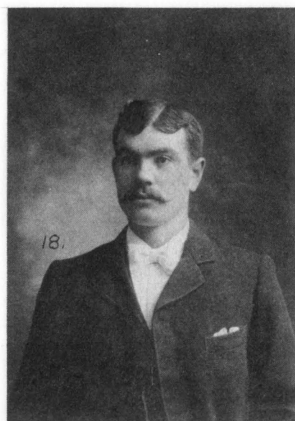
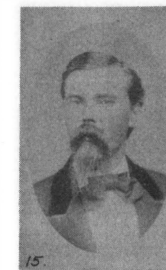
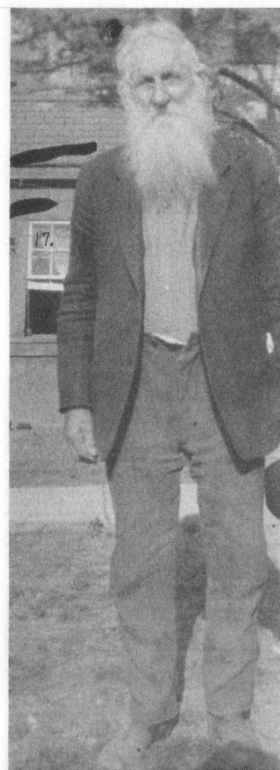


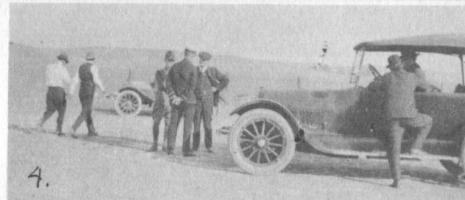
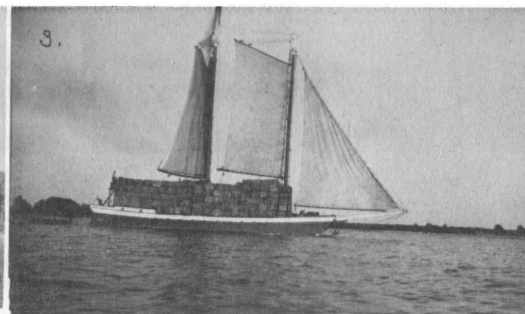
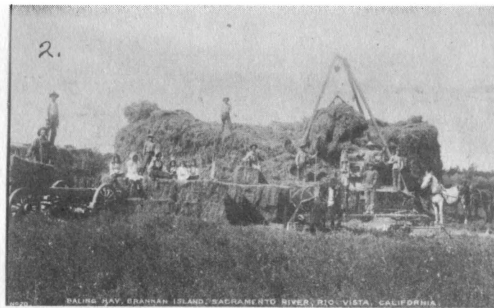


AND WHO . . . ?

1. John and Mary McCormack
2. Duncan McCormack
3. Archie McCormack
4. Peter Hamilton
5. Katherine Cook Hamilton
6. Grandma Seip, Wedding picture
7. Julia Cook
8. Peter Cook
9. Pete Nelson
10. Neil Scow

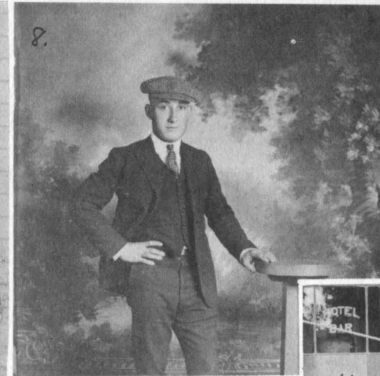
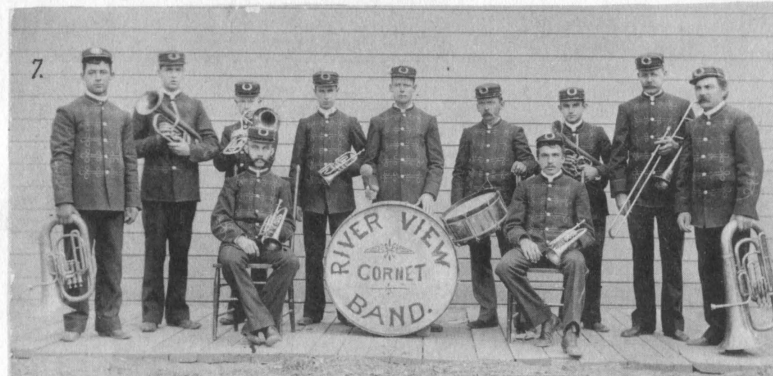
11. Meta, Melvin & Duncan Robinson
12. Neil Cook
13. Mary Cook
14. Mary Ferguson
15. Wm. Ferguson
16. Dave & Ethel McCormack
17. John Fiscus
18. Tom McCormack
19. Our Floradora Girls
20. Joe and Theresa Souza & son Joe Enos Souza
21. Wm. Toy and parents



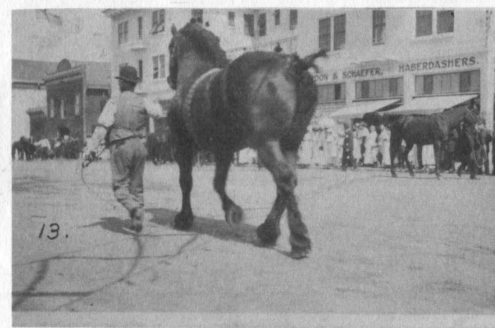


And The Things We Did!

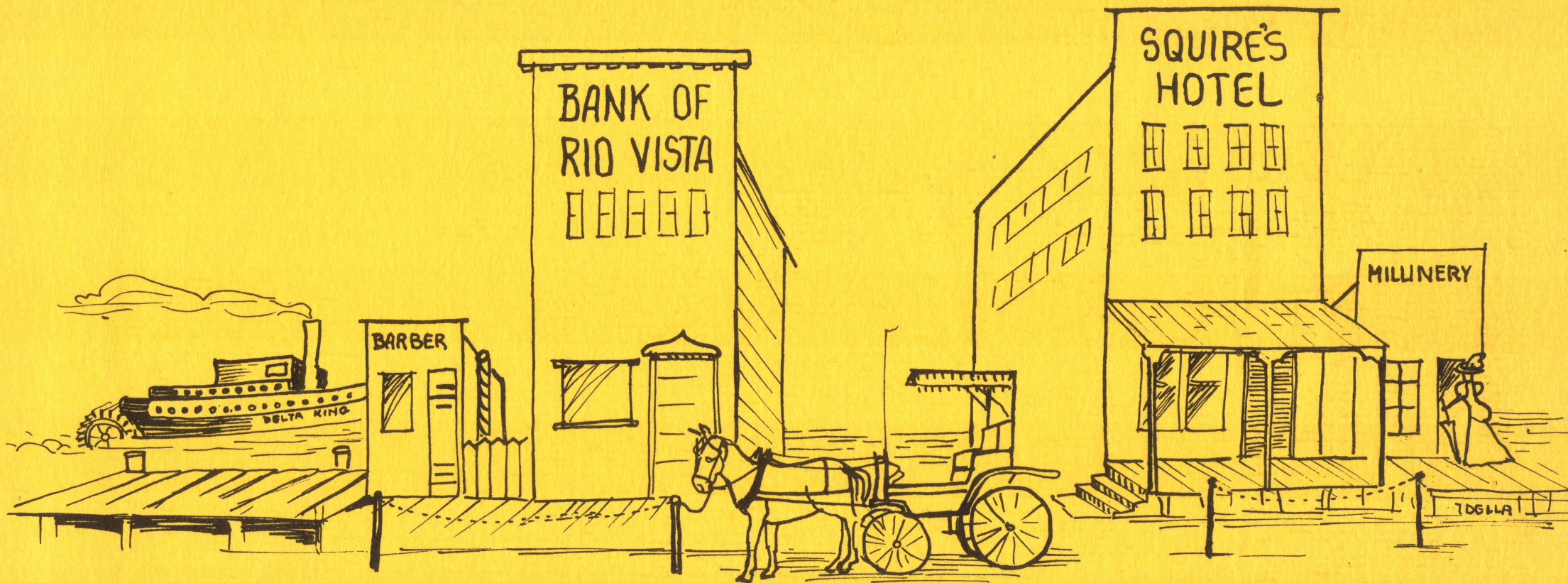
1. Walking the baby.
2. Bailing hay.
3. Shipping it by sail boat.
4. Young men about town.
5. Some of us went "Over there".
6. The line up.
7. Toot, toot.
8. Manuel "Pat" Freitas Had his picture taken.
9. Unidentified.
10. Mr. Hall and John Fiscus are either coming or going.



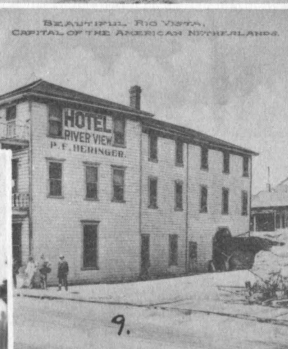
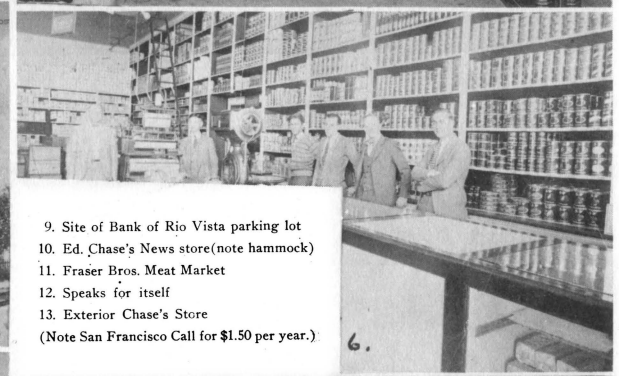
11. James Sullivan, Cap't Larsen and Pete Heringer went hunting.
12. A later generation has a PowWow.
13. Jim Kirby walked his horse.
14. Many others took a quiet stroll in the garden at St. Gertrude's.



GROWING PAINS



WE ARE COMING OF AGE



1. Thompson's "ice cream parlor".
2. Bailey's jewelry store and owner
3. Spivey's Drug store and owner, site of Rio Vista Drug store
4. McGraw's "cocktail lounge"
5. Sidwell Hotel
6. J. Stern Co. site of Weber store. H. Dirr J. Vieira, R. Bruce, J. Cleary, C. Mann
7. Foord's Casino
8. Site of Brewer's grocery

9. Site of Bank of Rio Vista parking lot
10. Ed. Chase's News store (note hammock)
11. Fraser Bros. Meat Market
12. Speaks for itself
13. Exterior Chase's Store

(Note San Francisco Call for \$1.50 per year.)

S.T. Hadley

BLACKSMITH AND
GUNSMITH

THESE ARE
FOR REAL
FROM
OLD PAPERS

LOUIS MILLER
ONLY PAINTER IN TOWN

Capt. L. P. Larsen

CHAS. DAVIS
BUILDERS
MILL WORK
HARDWARE
HOUSE MOVING

Wilcox Ruble & Dozier
GROCERIES
CROCKERY,
TRIMMINGS
DRY GOODS, CLOTHING,
BOOTS, SHOES, HATS,
HARDWARE, RIBBONS,

P. BELL Prop.
TINWARE
MADE TO ORDER

Millinery
MISS A. E. PALMER
FANCY ORNAMENTS

S. P. SORENSON, FURNITURE

J. D. OSTRANDER
SEWING MACHINES
GUNS - REVOLVERS

U.S. MAIL LINE
"CENTENNIAL"
"ALICE GARRATT"

J. ORTNER
Suits

MADE
TO
ORDER

\$20.00 + UP

J. B. L
M
B
A
U
G
H

MRS. L. C. RUNK

**RIO
VISTA
WATER
CO.**

*R. C. Carter
manager*

WESTERN HOTEL

GEO. A. CLARRIDGE

RIO VISTA DRUG STORE
C. Merritt Co.
CHEMICALS
PATENT MEDICINES
CONFECTIONS

CENTRAL HOTEL
*"This house is a
Temperance House"*

*Fashion Livery
Stable*

JOHN B. FISCUS
STOCK BOARDED

L.C. RUBLE
POST
MASTER



Dr. R. C. Hunter
PROFESSIONAL CALLS
PROMPTLY ANSWERED

DAY OR NIGHT

J.D. INGERSOLL
JUSTICE OF THE
Peace

*Martin
Christensen*

WHARFINGER

SACRAMENTO VALLEY
TANNERY
Mqr.
J.A. MALONE

HARNESSES

JOHN
CURRIE

GENERAL MERCHANDISE
BED ROCK PRICES
allender-Pennell-McClure

J.M. PERRY
GROCERIES / HARDWARE
FOR CASH ONLY
PICTURES AND FRAMING
AGENTS
New Zealand Fire Ins.

Wm. Ferguson
IMPLEMENTS
MACHINERY
CARRIAGES

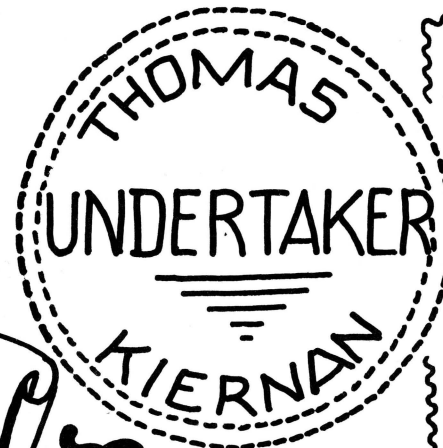
NEWS DEALER
ED. CHASE

Johnson & Emigh
WAREHOUSES

HANS LAURITZEN

F. J. Stumm
WATCHES - CLOCKS
SPECTACLES - JEWELRY

Guitar strings



*Ross
Hotel*

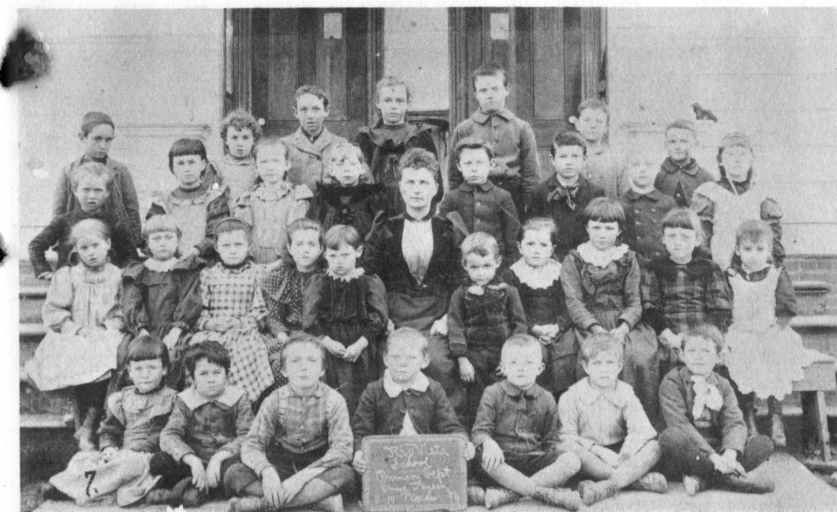
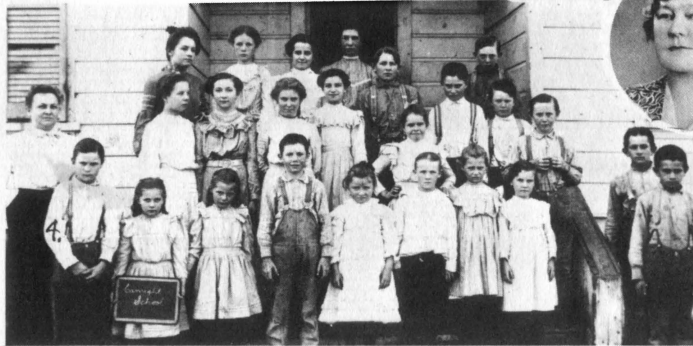
**GEORGE
WESLAR**

SHAVING AND
HAIR DRESSING
Warm Baths
AT ALL HOURS
UNDER
River View Hotel

Does This Ring A Bell?

How Many Are Present To Answer
Roll Call?

1. Bruning public school
2. Rio Vista Elementary School
3. St. Gertrude's Boys
- 4-5. Both are Canright school groups
Inset—Mrs. Elizabeth McCormack former
Canright teacher.
6. St. Gertrude's Girls.
7. Rio Vista Primary School
8. Rio Vista Elementary School Grade 5 in
1934 Mrs. Mae Totman, teacher
9. Rev. Mother Camillus, Founder of St.
Gertrude's Academy

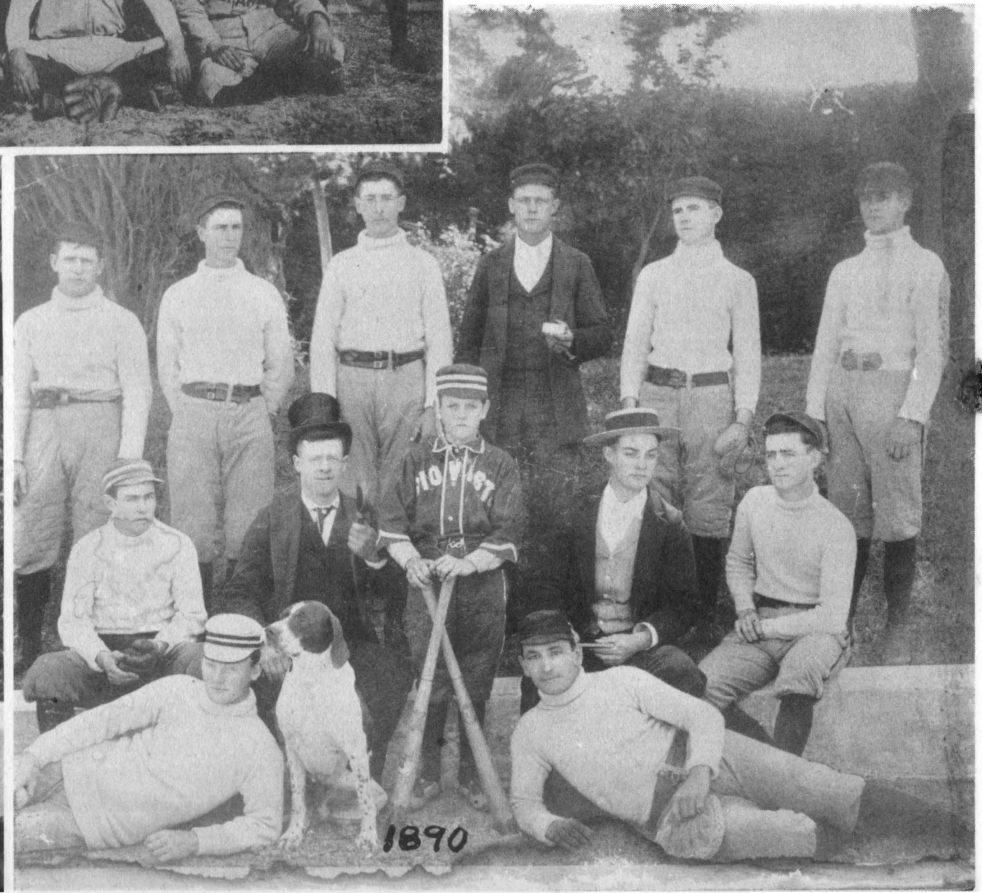
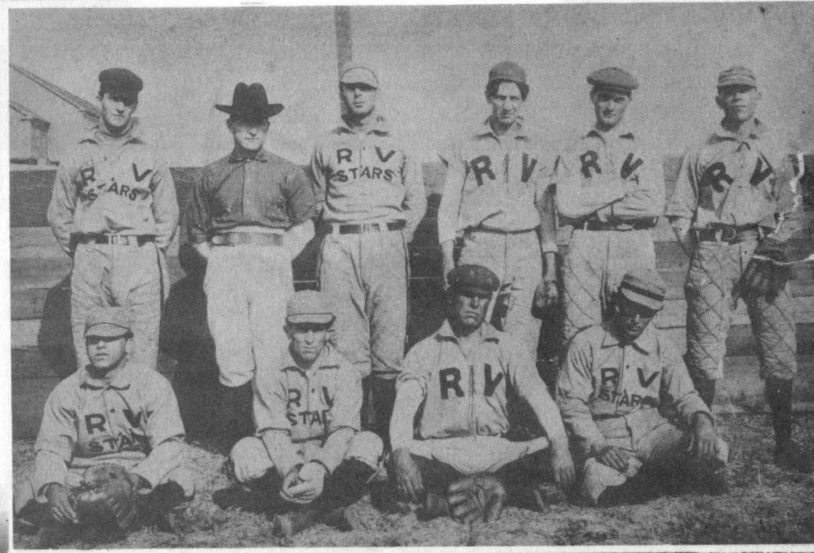




Batter Up!



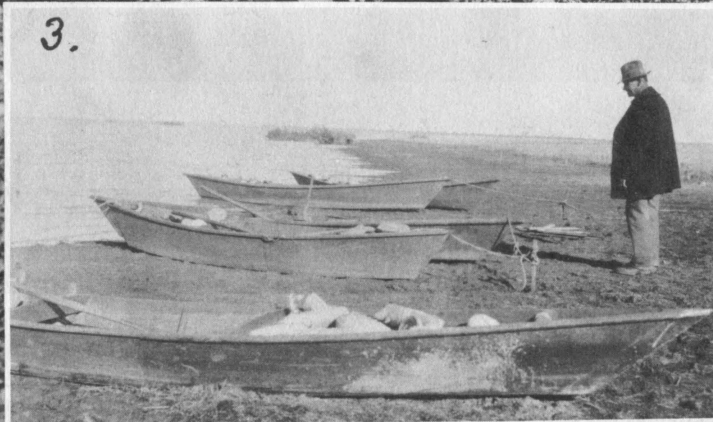
Rio Vistans' Love of Baseball
Began Years Ago



A Field Day For The Game Warden

Ranching was not all cakes and ale. The wild geese came to the lowlands of the Sacramento Valley in such profusion that all grain crops were in danger of being wiped out. Professional hunters were paid to conduct "shoots". The large picture is one day's bag by a party conducted by Claud Kagee and "Doc" Stuart.

Fishing has also been a popular sport in the Delta. Picture three shows Bill Kagee with some of his boats for hire.



ABE CRUMP

CLAUD KAGEE

DOC. STUART

THE LAST SEASON OF THE WILD GOOSE HUNT

Telephone, telegraph or write Mr. Allison, Elmira, and make your arrangements with him for the days you wish to shoot, and he will arrange for the hunt with us at Norman. On your arrival there you will find us ready, and will take you to the place of shooting.

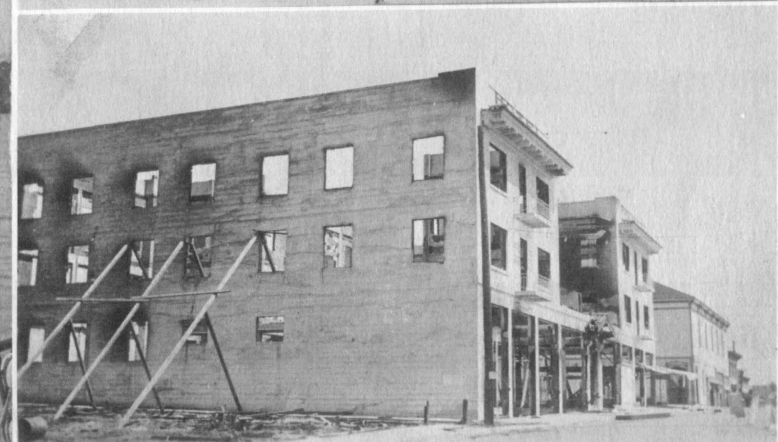
We locate this season at Norman, Glenn Co., from February 10th until about April 10th.

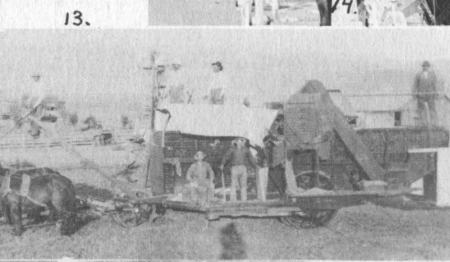
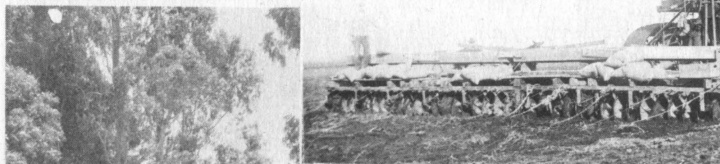
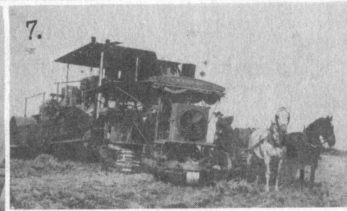
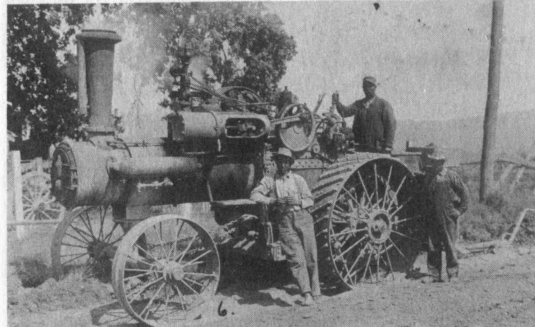
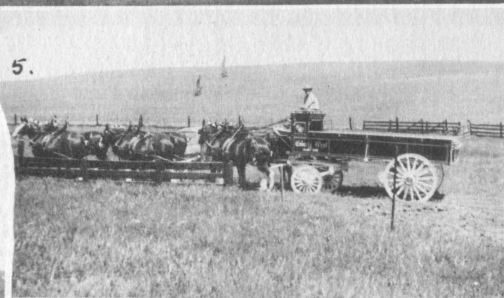
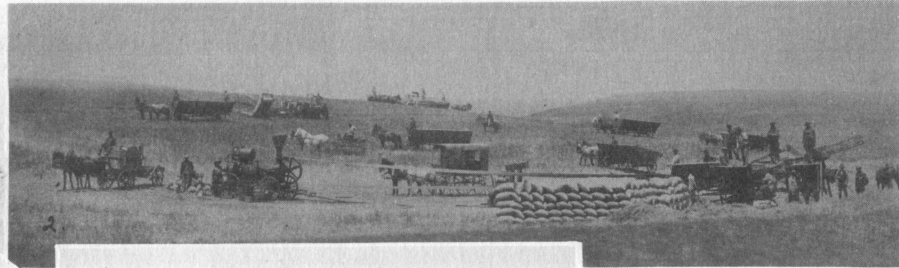
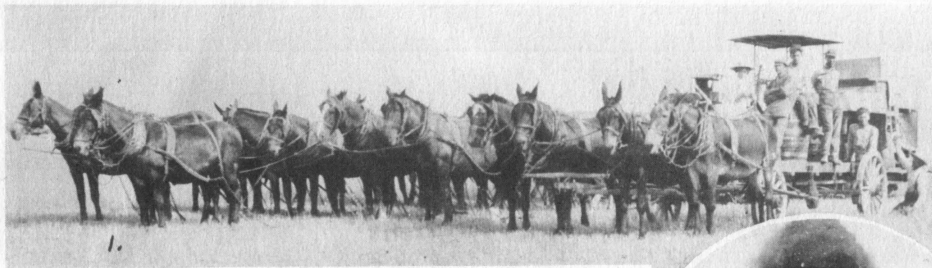
Our Growing community had its share of set backs and disappointments. In 1866 the Steamer YOSEMITE was tied up at the foot of Main St. Without warning it was blown to bits from an internal explosion. Eighty lives were lost including thirty Chinese men.

In 1870 a large dredger sank at the edge of Ryde Island. The masts and boom are still visible above the "last resting place".

The gutting by fire of the Rio Vista Hotel would have been a three alarm fire in any city.

Yes! That Was All Bad Luck





RIO VISTA FARMERS BECOME BIG LEAGUE RANCHERS

Many Operations Near Rio Vista
Handle A Thousand Acres or More.

1. Jerome Emigh rig.
2. Hoyt Ranch stationary thresher.
3. Weckworth rig on Kirby Ranch.
4. ?
5. Wallace McCormack drives the
Coberly West show team.
6. ?
7. Tom McCormack equipment on
Twitchell Island.
8. Peter Cook ranch tractor; Chas.
Wood aboard, Hefner on Combine.
9. Hampton beet harvester.
10. Ernest Mayhood ranch home.
11. Azevedo ranch team.
12. Charlie Tonnesen rig.
13. Perry Anderson ranch 1900.
14. Ray Church show team.

Graduation Exercises Were Big Social Events

The upper picture is a St. Gertrude's class. The steeple of the old Catholic Church shows in the background. The hedge of course is no more as California Street residences occupy the site.

The lower picture apparently was a combined graduation. The word "Tol-and" is on one of the banners. The Bruning school is in the background.





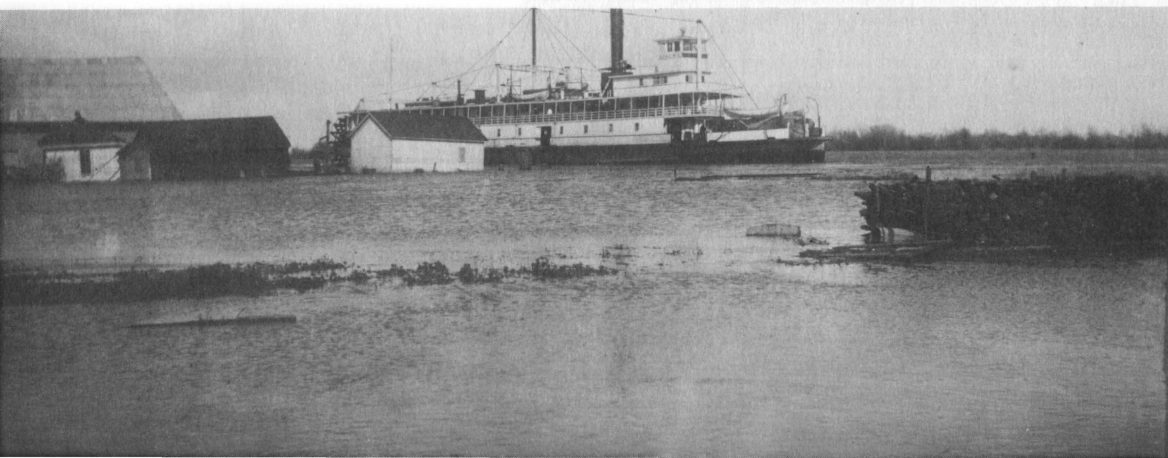
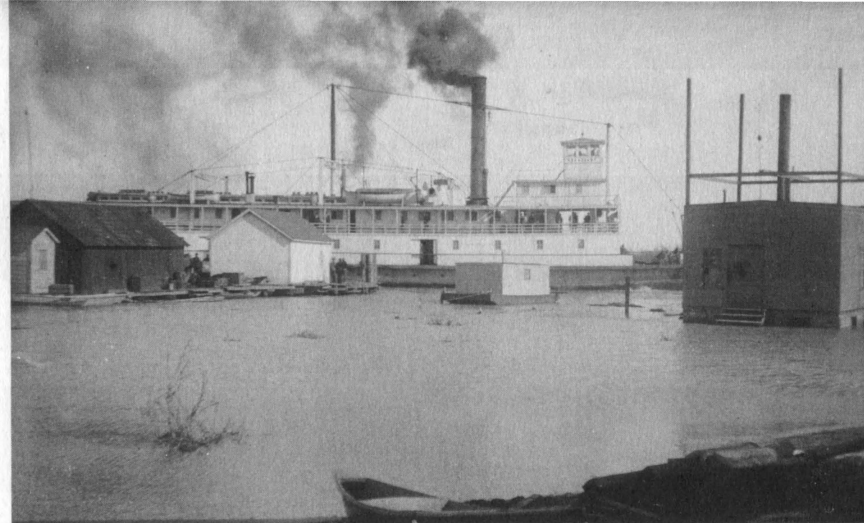
Here Was Proof Of The Need For Flood Control

The devastating flood of 1907 appeared to be the last straw needed to break the backs of the hard working farmers. In 1910 with local capital the Sacramento-San Joaquin Flood Control District was formed. The pioneers of this great project were Alfred Anderson, V. S. McClatchey, John Irish and Peter Cook Sr.

Wood Island in the river opposite Rio Vista was dredged out. The Joseph district was opened, the river channel straightened and eventually the levees on both sides of the Sacramento were raised.



THE SWOLLEN SACRAMENTO — RIO VISTA CALIFORNIA.

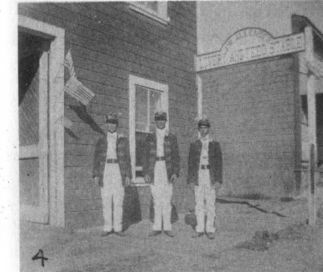
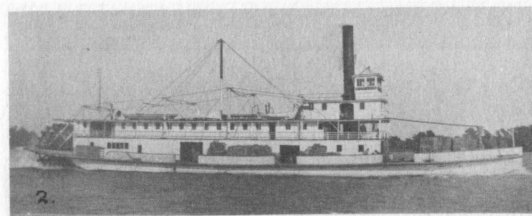




Mass Production

The commercial aspects of Rio Vista changed over the years from a grain producing area to about 1928 when about 98 percent of the world's asparagus was produced here and nearby. This in turn attracted large cannery interests, which ran day and night shifts during the peak of the pack. The workers lived in camps near the canneries.

With the improvement of highways, and with the increased tonnage of carriers, field crops are now transported to nearby population centers for processing. The canneries are no more.



F. ALLENDER
Proprietor
*A complete line of
bakery products fresh
every day.
Soda Fountain in
Connection*

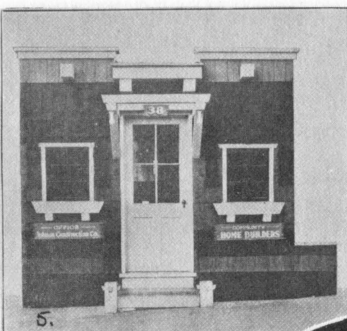
Fay & Son

*RIVER TOWING,
BARGING*

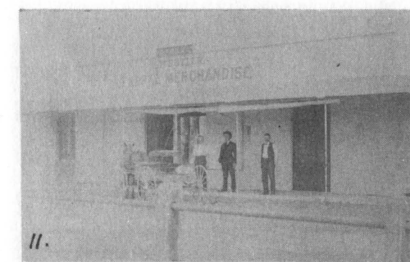
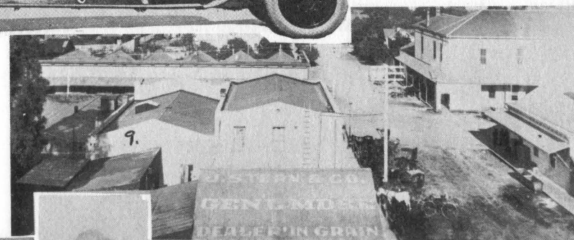
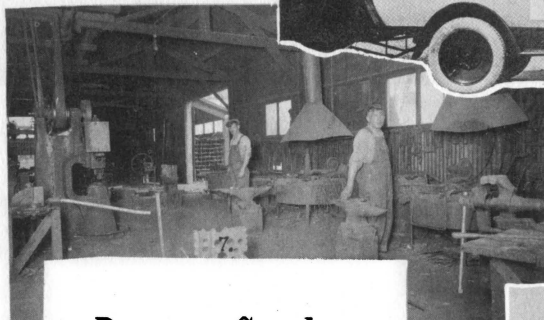
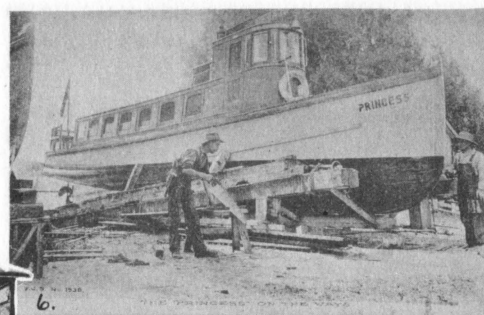
N. M. BAILEY
Watchmaker and
Jeweler
*Rio Vista Represent-
ative of the
P. G. & E.*

NEW BUSINESS AND PROSPERITY CAME

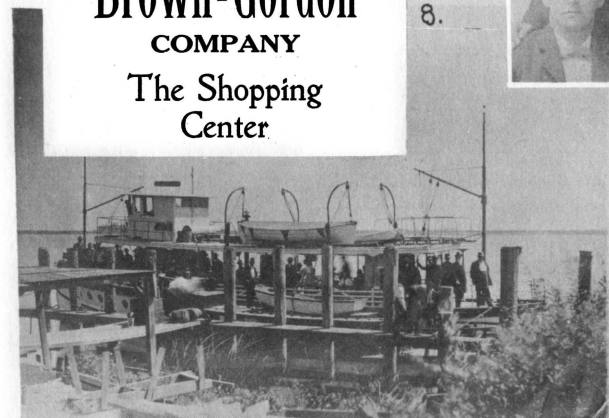
1. Seip Bakery-Grandma Seip and the Lauritzen sisters
2. The "Onward" stopped at Rio Vista
3. First Apt. House, The Fraser
4. Allender Livery Stable
5. Veteran Construction Co.
6. Scott Boat Works
7. Cavagnaro Blacksmith Shop, Gover and "Andy"
8. "Duchess", operated by Lauritzen Bros.
9. J. Stern Co. now the Weber Co.
10. The Sidwell-rebuilt
11. H. W. Butler-Mdse.
12. Sullivan and Larsen-Lumber
13. River Auto Lines-Bebe Freitas, driver
14. The Christensen brothers, Fred, John, Alvin and Martin



F. F. NUNES
TAILORED CLOTHES
Rio Vista, Calif.
—o—
CLOTHES
THAT REALLY FIT
AT PRICES THAT YOU CAN
AFFORD TO PAY
—o—
*Pressing — General Repairs — Cleaning
Ladies' Work*

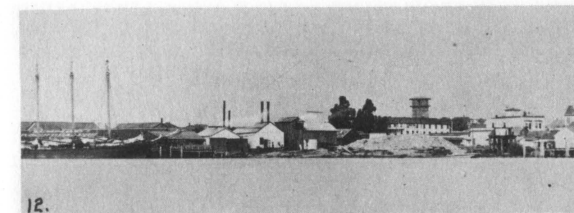


Brown-Gordon
COMPANY
The Shopping
Center



Ford
THE UNIVERSAL CAR
Kerner Motor Co.

L. F. BRANDT
*General Merchandise
of the better sort.*
**PHONOGRAPHS
and
RECORDS**

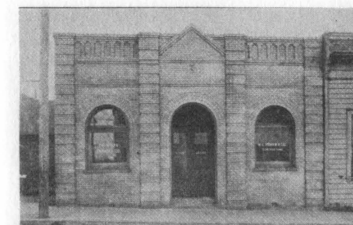


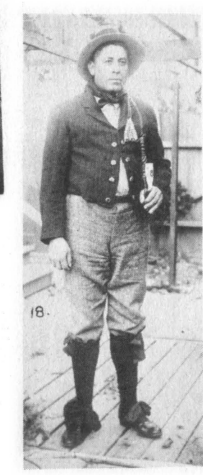
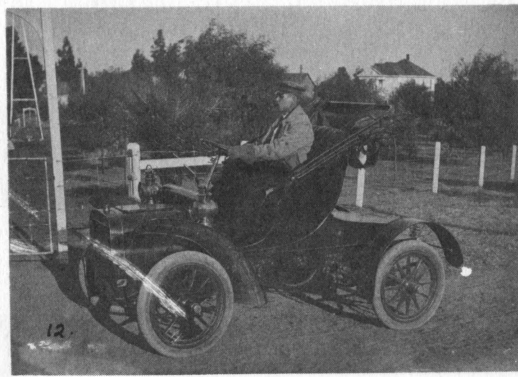
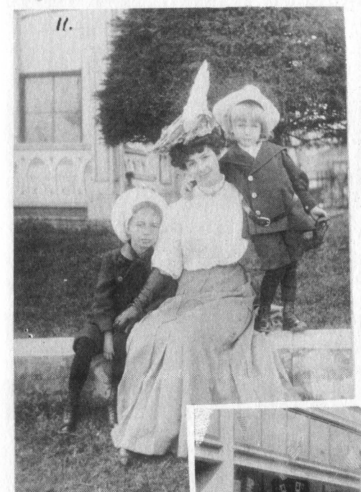
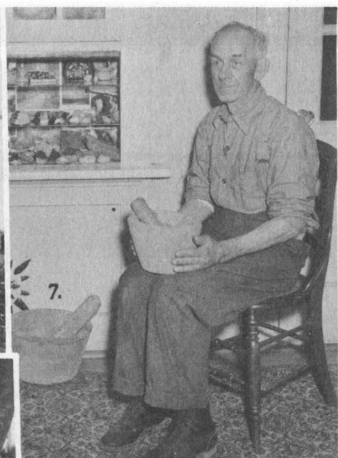
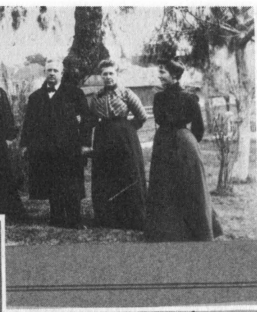
River View Hotel
John I. Fiscus
Prop.

*Board by the day or
week at reason-
able rates.*

*All you can eat for
50 Cents*

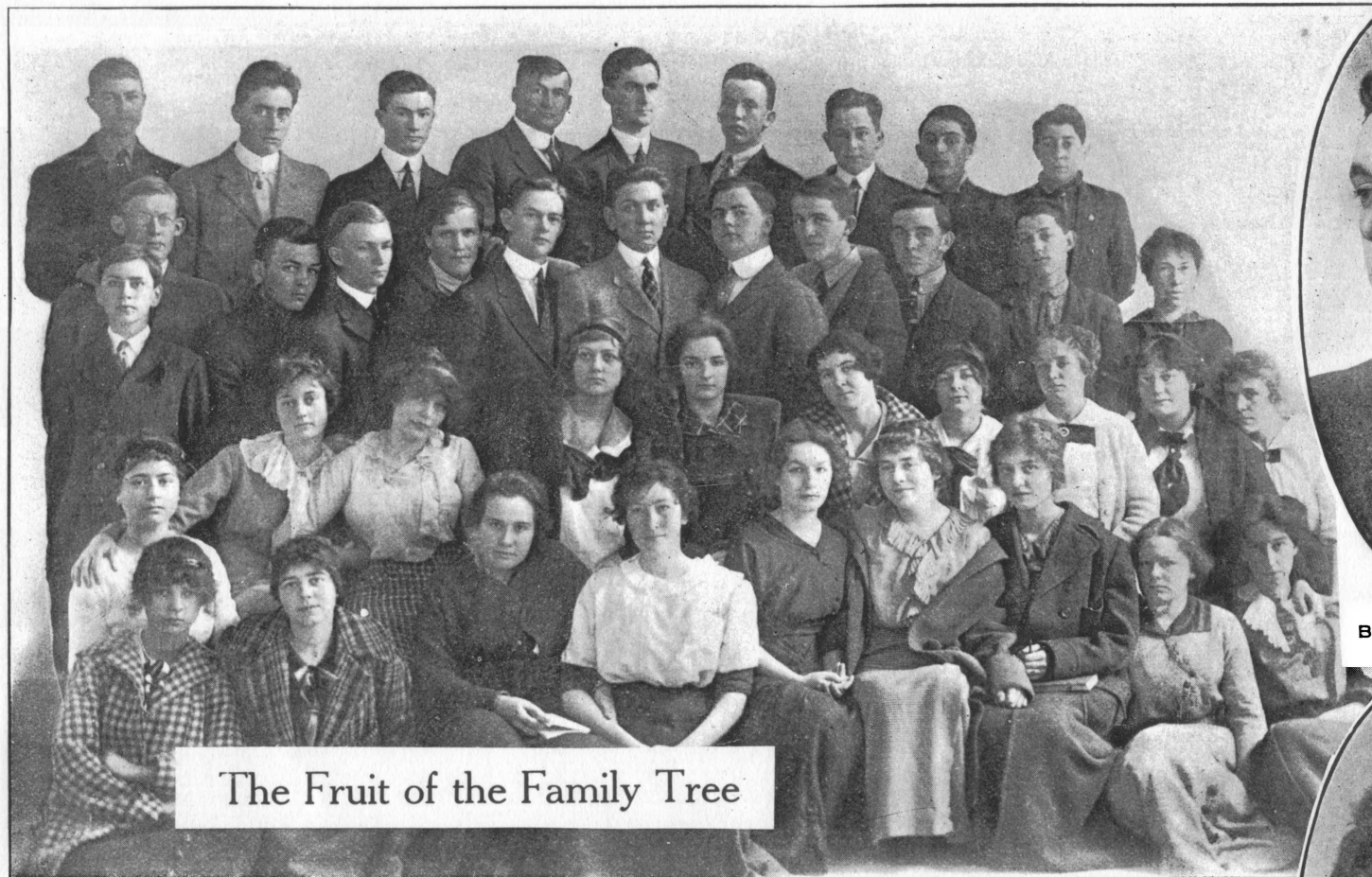
M. L. ISHAM & CO.
Contractors





THESE WERE SOME OF THE NEWCOMERS
OTHERS ARE 2nd and 3rd GENERATION

1. Belle and Lizzie Offerman
2. Ed. and Annie Chase entertain
3. Peter Jacobs, Supt. of Schools
4. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Avila
5. Annamae Morrison and Grandma Seip
6. Winter's Family
7. Charlie Tonnesen
8. Zilla Garfield
9. Tom and son Lloyd Spivey
10. Mr. and Mrs. Joe DeSoto and guest
11. Unidentified, we liked the hat
12. "Doc" Makemson on a call
13. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lauritzen
14. Mary Offerman
15. Charles Gardiner
16. Howard Heringer-Fritz Emigh
17. Leslie Fraser and parents
18. Joe DeSoto "Apache"
19. Unidentified
20. Christensen Launch
21. Rees Sisters
22. Pearl and Charlie Campbell
23. Unidentified
24. Unidentified
25. L. McCracken and L. Schmidt



The Fruit of the Family Tree

This picture of the student body of Rio Vista High School in 1914 is a good sampling from the generations which followed the founding fathers of Rio Vista. There were newcomers too.

A fellow classman was able to identify all but two of the group which is as follows.

4TH ROW L. to R.
E. Jose, E. Bryan, L. Fraser, H. King, F. B. Smith, D. McCormack, C. Dickey, G. Frates, unidentified.

3RD ROW
E. Hampton, R. Lauritzen, P. Martin, A. Anderson, H. Lauritzen, L. Upham, R. Hoyt, P. Cook Jr., B. Fraser, B. McCormack, F. Lauritzen, Miss Wendall

2ND ROW
H. Bailey, G. Bryan, M. Weber, E. Hoyt, B. Totman, A. Fraser, M. Comwell, M. Nelson, D. Stewart

FRONT ROW
A. Anderson, R. Allender, H. Totman, R. Hampton, M. Kalber, K. Crewe, D. Smith, A. McDonald, Miss Akers (Mrs. Duncan Robinson)



BULEN McCORMACK
Treasurer



LESTER UPHAM
President



GERTRUDE BRYAN
Secretary





THERE WERE MANY OTHERS

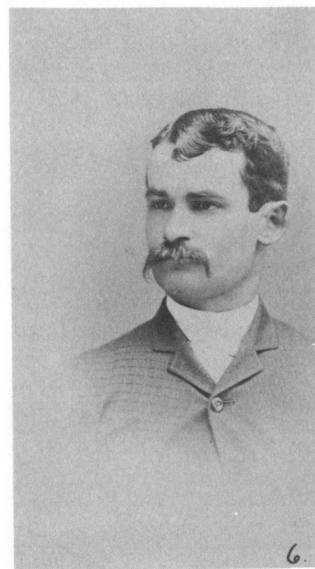
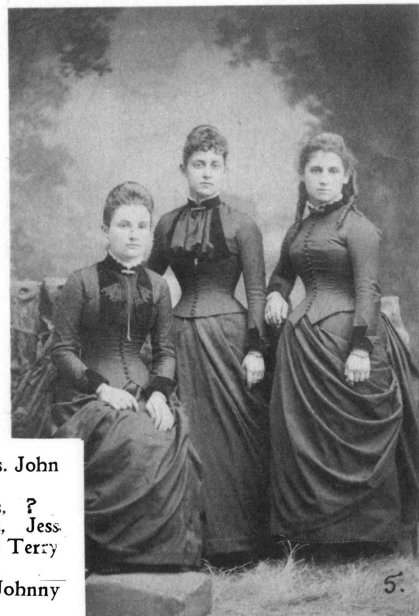
The ancestors of many Rio Vista citizens of Portuguese descent were also on hand to share the hardships of pioneering OUR TOWN. Many of their children remained to share in the prosperity of the present generation.

Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Ramos, shown in the small picture at the left were among the survivors rescued from a second story window in the flood of 1862. They had just been married.

There were also French settlers in OUR TOWN. These included Mr. and Mrs. Ed Drouin and Mr. and Mrs. Emile Renner who operated a "refreshment parlor" on the site of Foord's Casino.

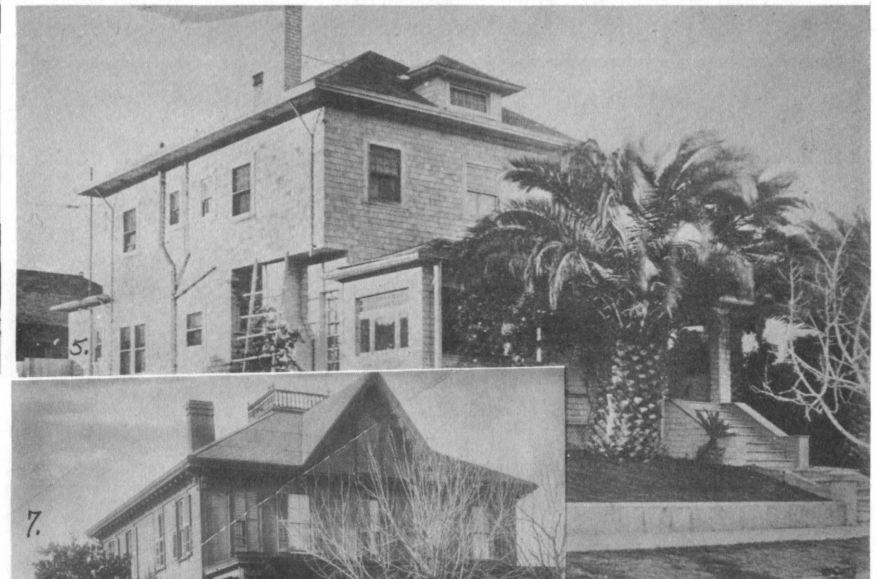
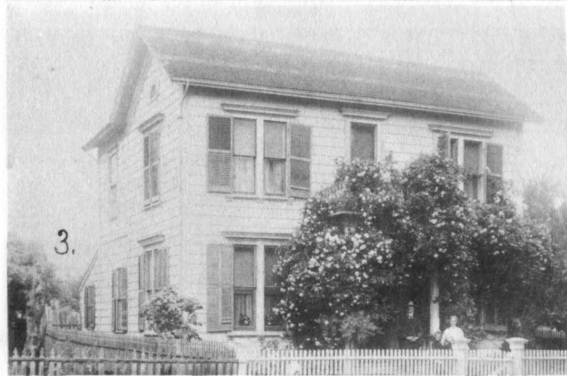
Here are still others.

1. Pauline and Annie Ramos
2. Philomine Ramos
3. Amaro and Rose Macedo
4. Mary Joseph
5. Mary, Philomine and Rose Joseph
6. Manuel Fratus
7. Manuel and Mrs. Ramos
8. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Drouin
9. Mr. and Mrs. Emile Renner



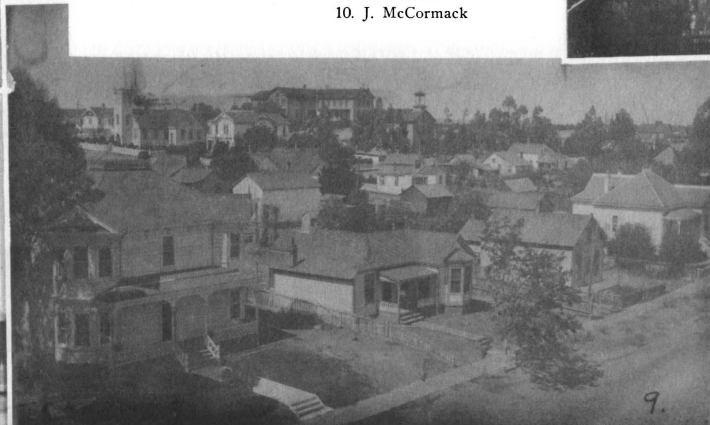
10. Mr. and Mrs. John Joseph
11. Bene Freitas, ? Pat Freitas, Jess Marks, and Terry Silva
12. Rose and Johnny Freitas



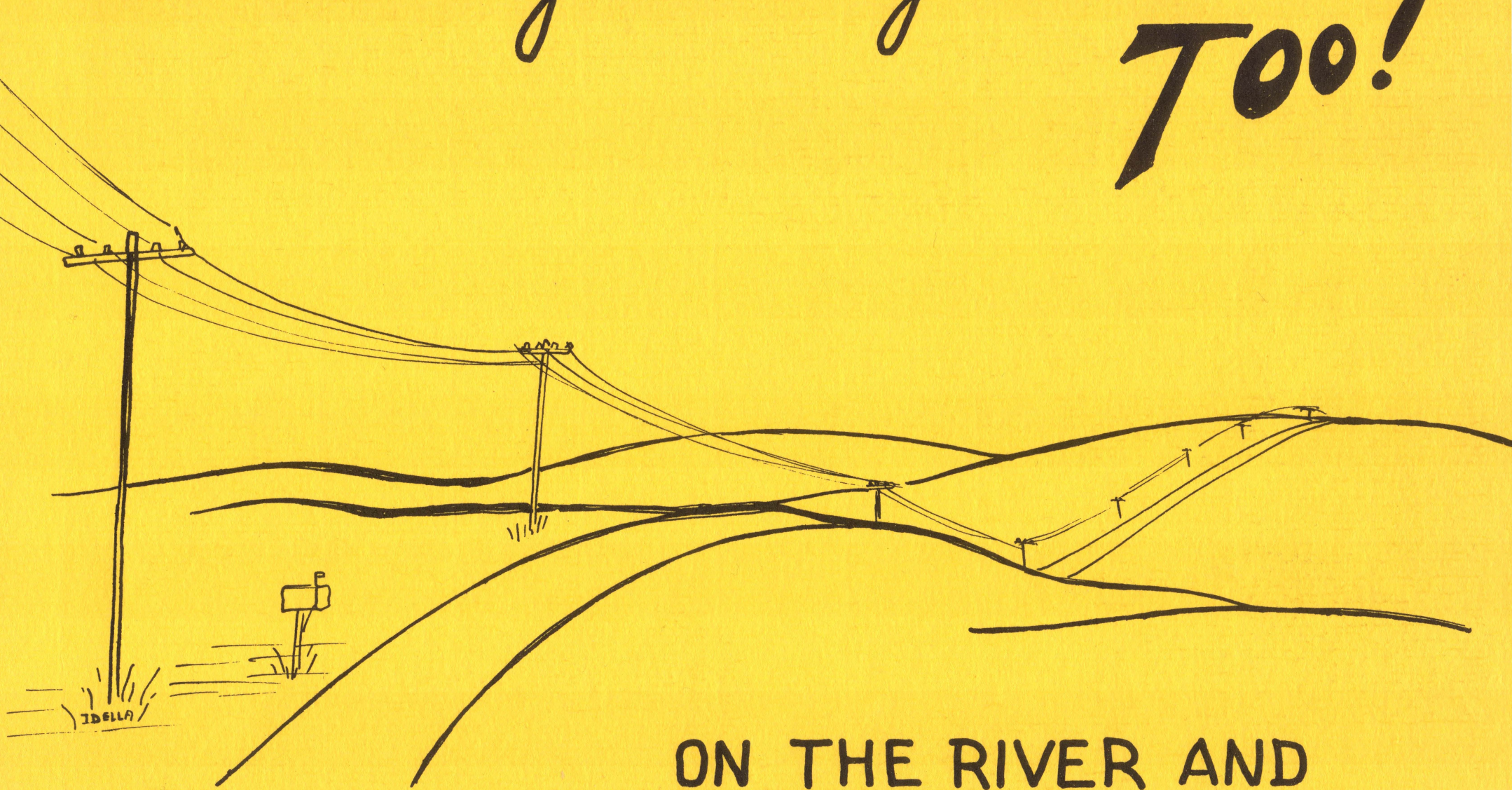


**Luxurious Homes
Followed in the Wake of the New Prosperity**

1. Gardiner
2. Carter
3. Harvie
4. Trigueiro
5. T. McCormack
6. Chase
7. Lent
8. Larsen
9. Makemson
10. J. McCormack



We had good neighbors
Too!



ON THE RIVER AND
OVER THE HILLS



Bird's Landing

The Bird family gave the community on the Sacramento Northern Railway right-of-way the name of Bird's Landing. The Bird ranch home was destroyed by fire and the family scattered. John Bird of Rio Vista is a next of kin.

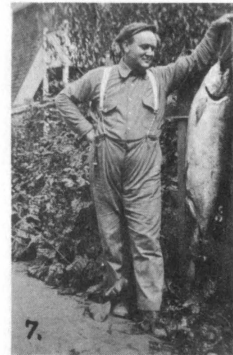
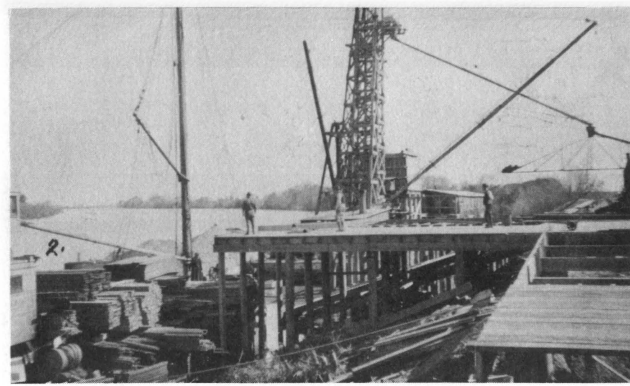
The little town remains a country crossroads with a general store which houses the post office. The CLUB is a quaint mixture of the past and present. The walls are lined with photos of historic value.

The Blackwelders had operated a blacksmith shop from 1898 to 1917 when they moved to Rio Vista.

We have selected the ranch of N. C. Anderson as being representative of one of the old time holdings. The original home still stands, but the family resides in the "new" house erected in 1906 by the late Charlie Campbell.

Sheep and grain have been the principal crops in addition to giant sized sons. Ellwood, with his dog, is really a BIG boy. N. C. himself is at the right. "Store" Charley Thompson is in the circle.





OLD FRIENDS UP THE RIVER AT ISLETON

1. Baseball teams of course, Ed. Bryan mgr.
2. Isleton built a wharf too.
3. The mail boat docked, Alice Smith (Bryan) and others
4. James Wilbur Gardiner Sr. brother of Crete DeBach
5. Godfried and Lillie Wickstrom (Lillian Smith Mills)
6. Marion Smith Abel
7. Warren "Locomotive" Smith
8. Phil DeBach
9. Isleton flood 1907
10. Hart Fellows Smith and Warren

In our search for pictures we ran into the names Thompson Allender, Philip Everly, Philip Hogate, Ida Poole, James Mathena, Manuel Rogers, Berlin and Thisby but no pictures.



AND ON TO COURTLAND

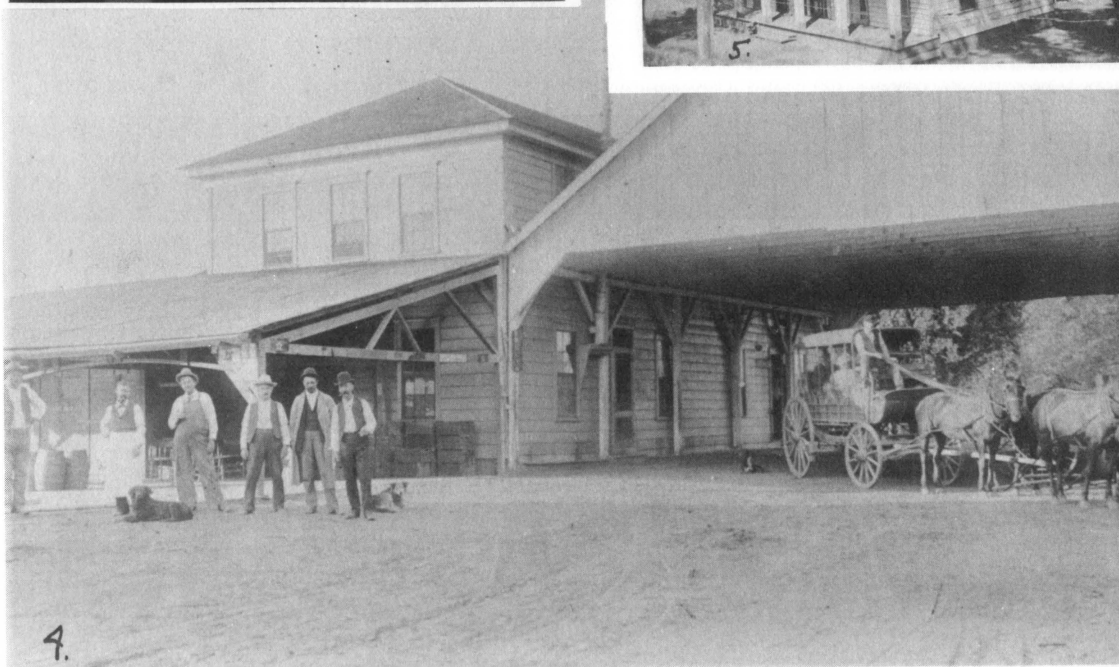
The home of Hart and Maggie Smith built in 1904 was a river landmark.

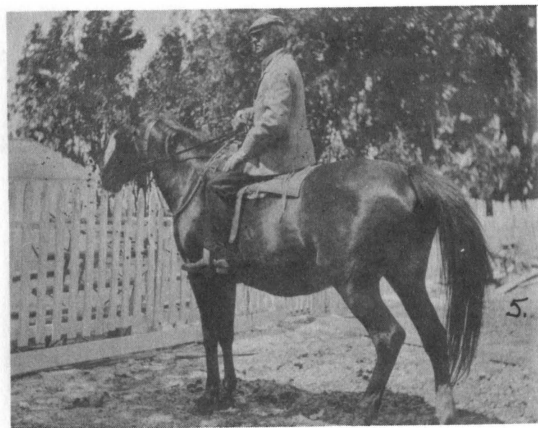
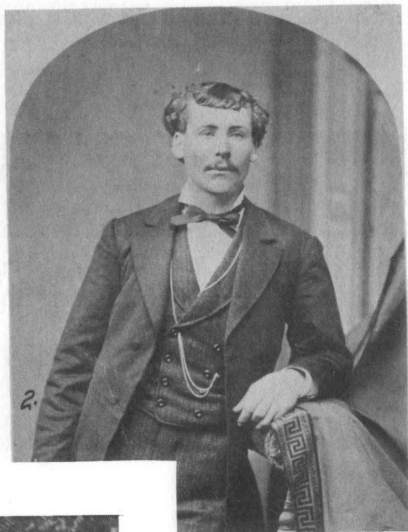
Mrs. Hart Fellows Smith, mother of Mrs. Ed. Byran.

The meat market at Isleton in 1908 with Tony the Wop, Warren Smith, Gleason Arlen and Hart Smith on the step.

Stage depot and hotel at Courtland. E. Bryan made the round trip run of eighty miles daily. Service was finally extended to Isleton.

Lumber for the Issac Bryan home in Courtland came 'round the Horn before 1850.





COLLINSVILLE, THE TOWN ON STILTS

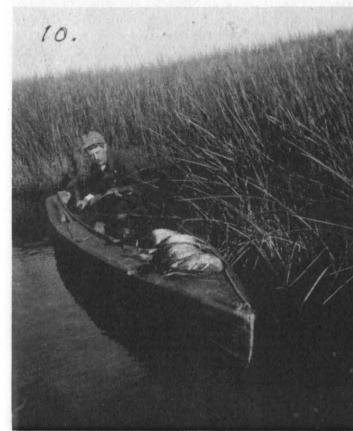
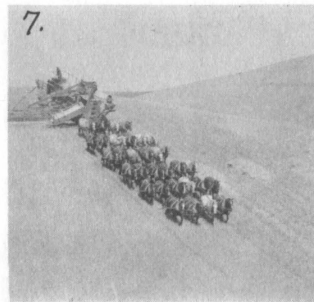
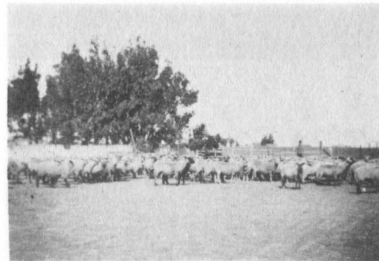
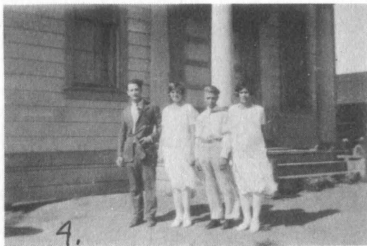
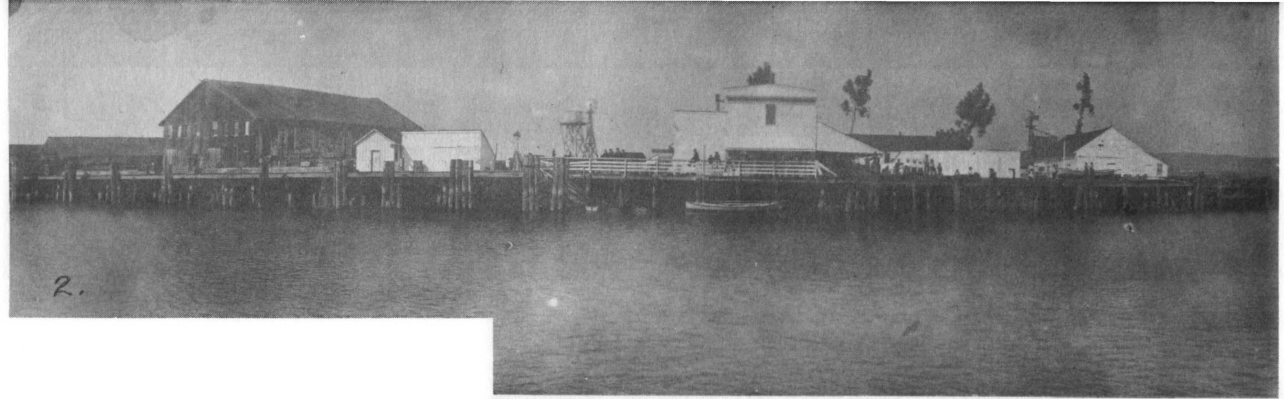
Collinsville faced most of the same pioneering problems, but OUR TOWN was more fortunate in the ultimate outcome.

L. P. Marshall was one of the original landowners. Mr. and Mrs. Sciarini operated a dairy on the Uphun ranch, but Collinsville was essentially a fishing port. Many Italians were attracted to the area which soon supported two salmon canneries.

Collinsville was a port-of-call to a half dozen ships and steamers a day plying regular trade channels. The town itself was unique in being built on stilts out over the swamp. This area was later filled by river dredgings, but there was a time when the town was connected to the mainland only by a boardwalk.

The canneries moved away and gradually the town was almost totally abandoned. A post office is still maintained.

1. Mr. and Mrs. Sciarini
2. Samuel O. Stratton 1876 Son
Earl lives in the adobe house.
3. 1889 Old Brown Ranch farmed
by J. H. White and Ed Young
father of Wood Young.
4. Collinsville 1900
5. L. P. Marshall
6. Old Stratton Adobe built 1854
7. Milton Talbert and game
- 8-9 Collinsville in 1934.



1. Collinsville School Miss Mary Stewart, teacher
2. Collinsville in 1900
3. Band of Stratton sheep
4. Harry Alley- teacher and pupils
5. Emil Emmington's Store and Post Office
- 6-7. Alec Stewart and Earl Stratton's harvester. Thirty two horses. Count 'em.
8. Hazel and Earl Stratton Honeymooning 1908.
9. Plowing on the E. I. Uphun ranch
10. W. W. Richards-Gun Club
11. A nice catch of cat fish.

The McDougal Livestock Co. Brought Prosperity To Collinsville

This corporation of thirteen members of which Harvey McDougal is president, and Paul Fritts vice president gives a nearby market for the grain produced locally. The entire sugar pulp production of the American Crystal Sugar Co. at Clarksburg also finds its way to the feed lots. Tandem barges carry it on the Sacramento River.

The site provides sixteen homes for employees in addition to bunk houses for thirty men.

The peak capacity of the yards is 15,447 head of beef at one time. Since 1955 the yard has handled 41,255 head by yearly average.

The firm is also developing the packaging and distribution of fertilizer as a by-product.



AS WE ARE TODAY

Laundry

PLUMBING

WATCHES

HOTEL

Cafe

ELECTRIC

REAL ESTATE

CASINO

Gift Shoppe

SUPER MARKET

Ladies Wear

USEZIN

POIS

PHARMACY

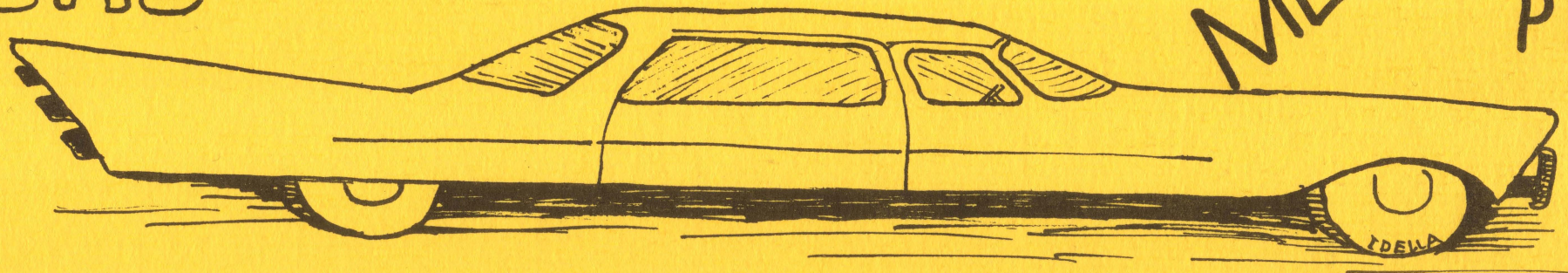
CLUB

AUTOSHOP

GAS

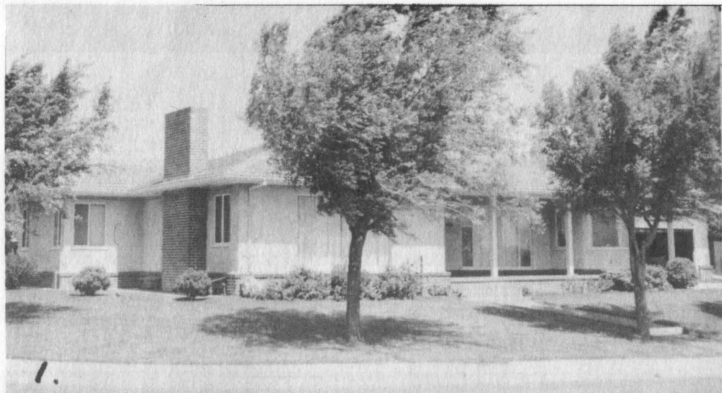
Tobacco

MEATS



This is Our Town
And These Are Our Neighbor's Homes

(CLOCKWISE)
Skip Smith
The Hamilton Sisters
Cliff Hamilton
Fritz Emigh
Bill King
The Espersons
Peter Cook Jr.
George Gordon
Skip Seiden
Bob Howe

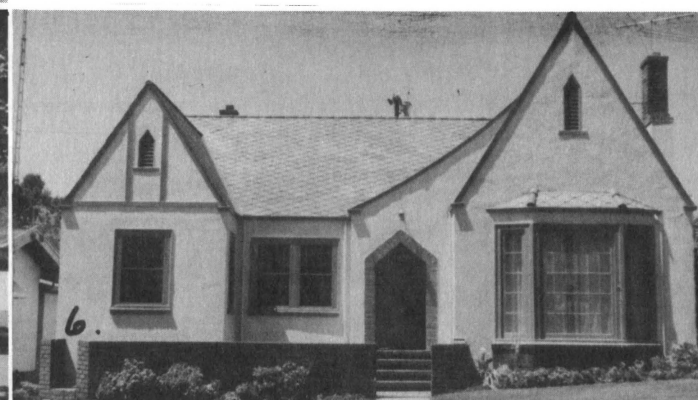
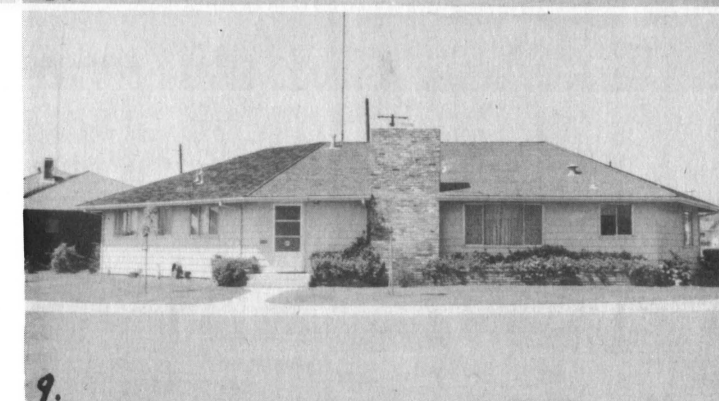


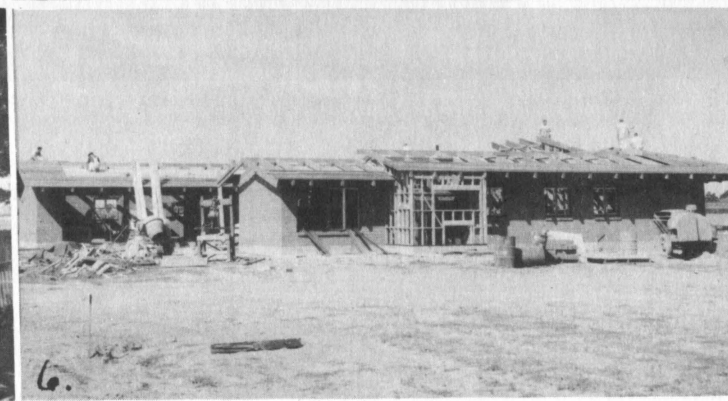
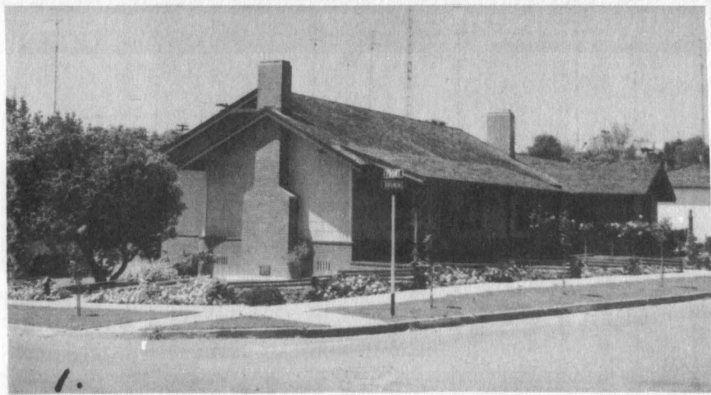
IF A MAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE
WE ARE INDEED A REGAL COMMUNITY

Vertically:

1. M. Nobrega
2. E. Emigh
3. C. Egbert
4. M. Marks
5. E. Triguero

6. W. Anderson
7. J. Vieira
8. L. Weber
9. J. Dole
10. A. Emigh
11. R. Esperson

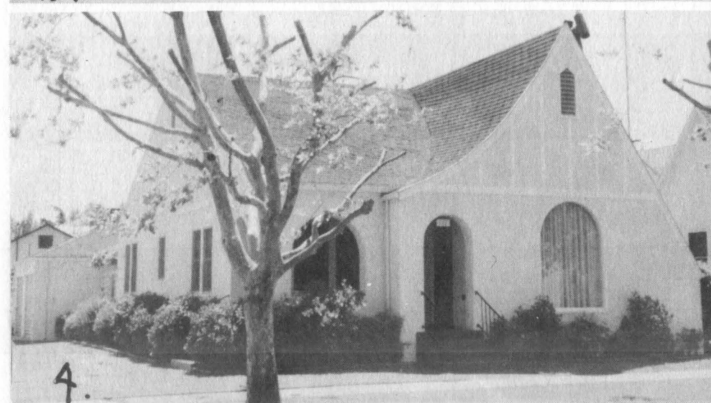




OLD ELEGANCE SITS SIDE BY SIDE
WITH MODERN CHROME AND GLASS

VERTICALLY:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. N. Brown | 6. F. Jongeneel |
| 2. E. Berguhl | 7. M. McKinnon |
| 3. D. Frances | 8. E. Stewart |
| 4. E. Miller | 9. E. James |
| 5. E. Simmer | 10. B. Augusto |
| | 11. A. Larsen |





We Present Our Rootin' Tootin' Shootin' Police Department

Rio Vista has been spared the stigma of crime. Our officers through the county wide communications equipment based at the fire house are able to keep in constant touch with the sheriff's office and other peace officers and defense agencies.

The people of Rio Vista walk their streets safely by day or night. We appreciate our able and alert police department.

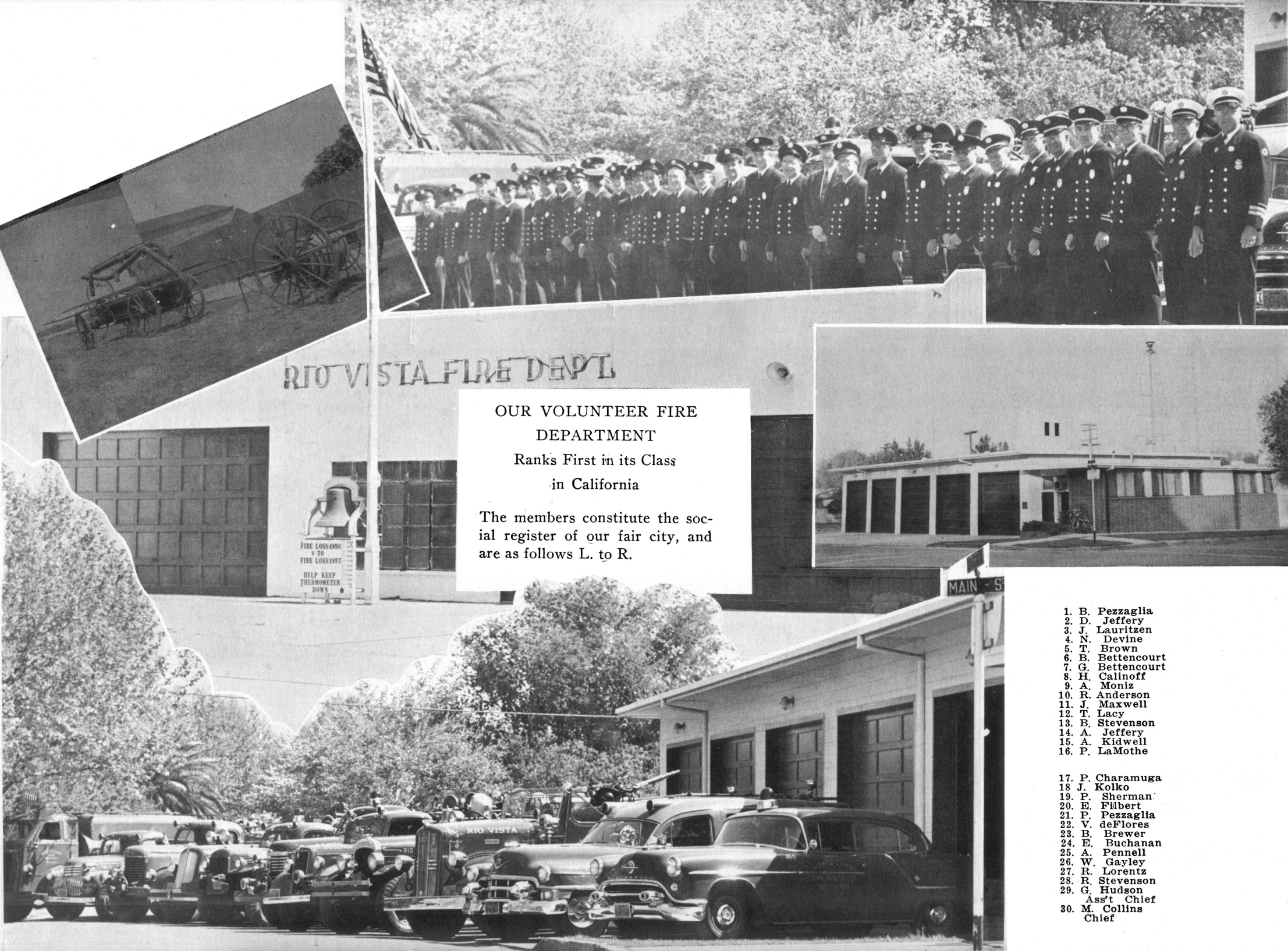
The picture was taken in our Centennial Museum and suitably shows the "Surrey With the Fringe on Top."

LEFT to RIGHT.

James A. Pennell, deputy sheriff, Solano County, Manuel "Pat" Cardoza, Chief of Police; Travis Walker, patrolman; Jack Isaacs, special officer; Elmer Martini, sergeant; William Woodall, patrolman.



Manuel "Pat" Cardoza
Chief of Police



RIO VISTA FIRE DEPT

OUR VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT

Ranks First in its Class
in California

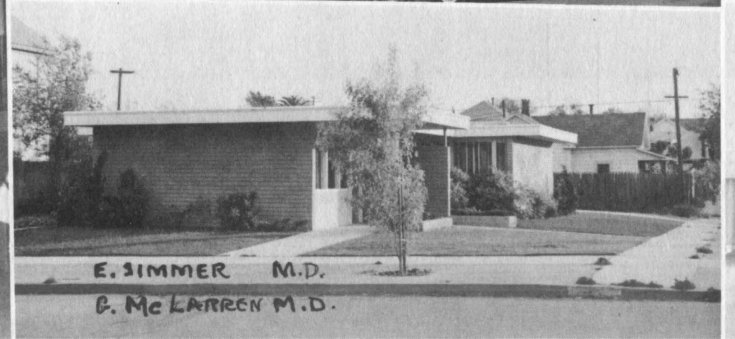
The members constitute the social register of our fair city, and are as follows L. to R.

1. B. Pezzaglia
2. D. Jeffery
3. J. Lauritzen
4. N. Devine
5. T. Brown
6. B. Bettencourt
7. G. Bettencourt
8. H. Calinoff
9. A. Moniz
10. R. Anderson
11. J. Maxwell
12. T. Lacy
13. B. Stevenson
14. A. Jeffery
15. A. Kidwell
16. P. LaMothe

17. P. Charamuga
18. J. Kolko
19. P. Sherman
20. E. Filbert
21. P. Pezzaglia
22. V. deFlores
23. B. Brewer
24. E. Buchanan
25. A. Pennell
26. W. Gayley
27. R. Lorentz
28. R. Stevenson
29. G. Hudson
- Ass't Chief
30. M. Collins
- Chief



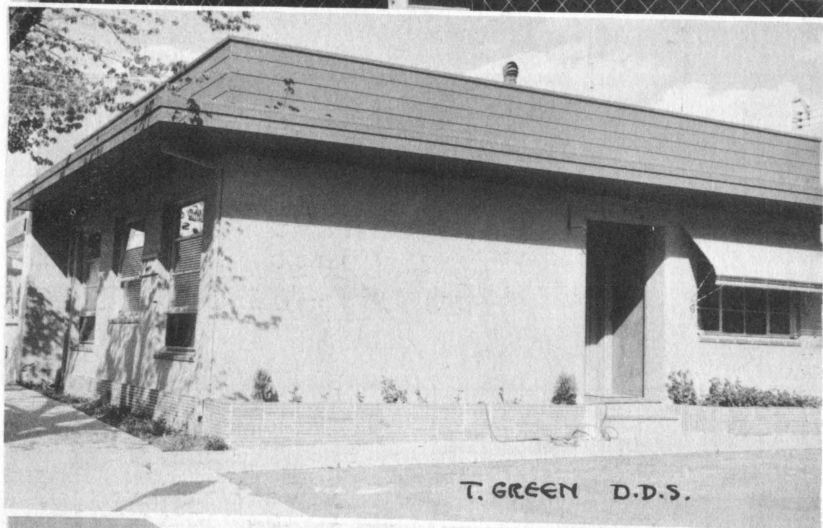
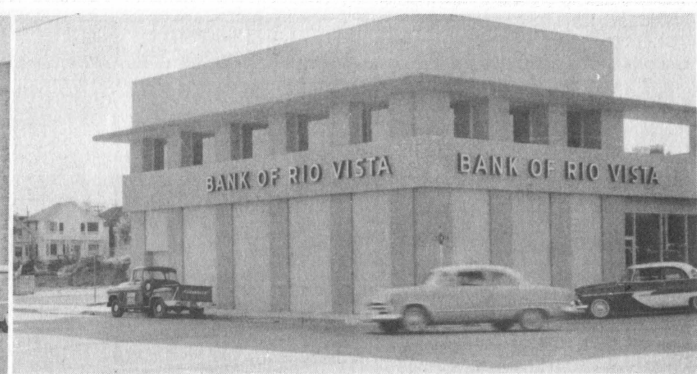
On the following eight pages we will show you all our business houses each bearing its own sign, except for the medical men of course.



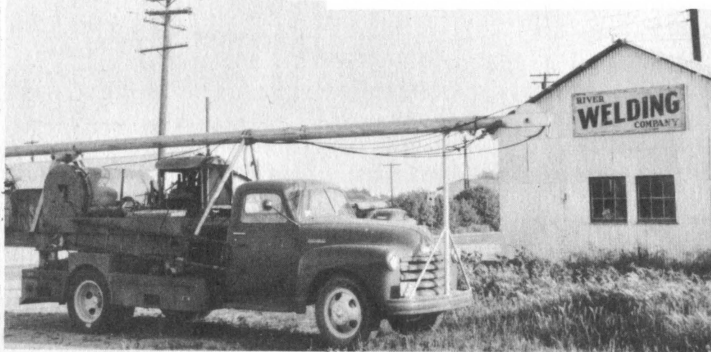
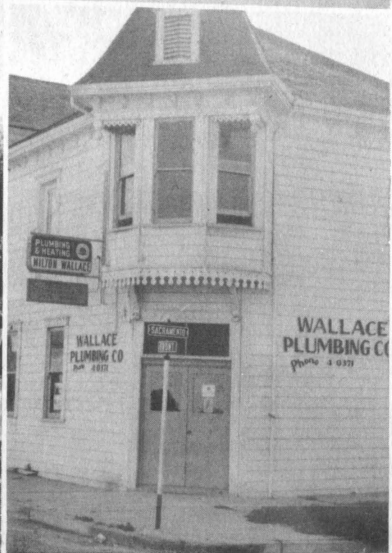


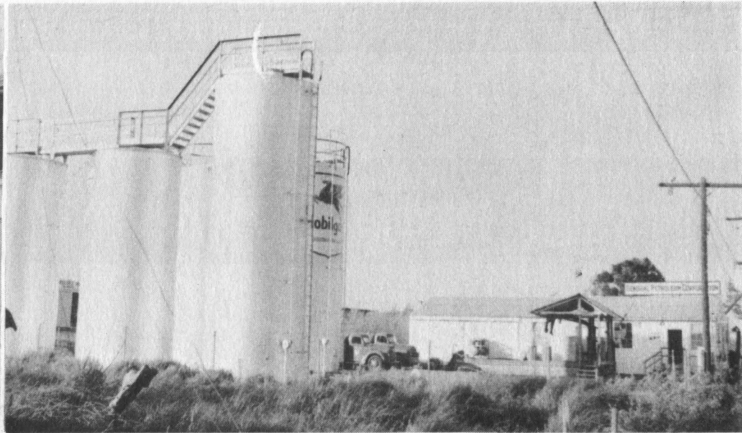
Most of us are on a first name basis with our bankers, merchants, professional men and clergymen.



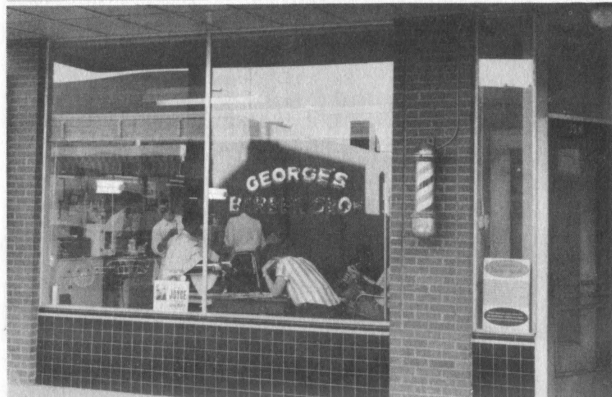
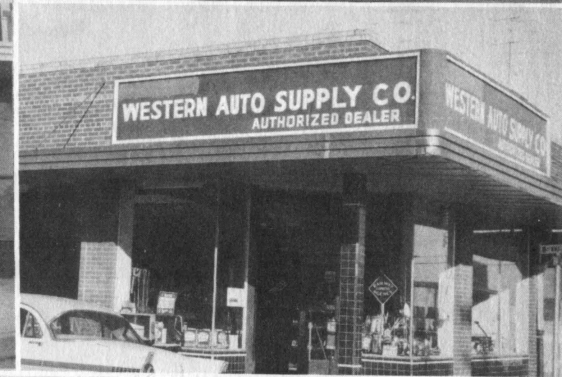
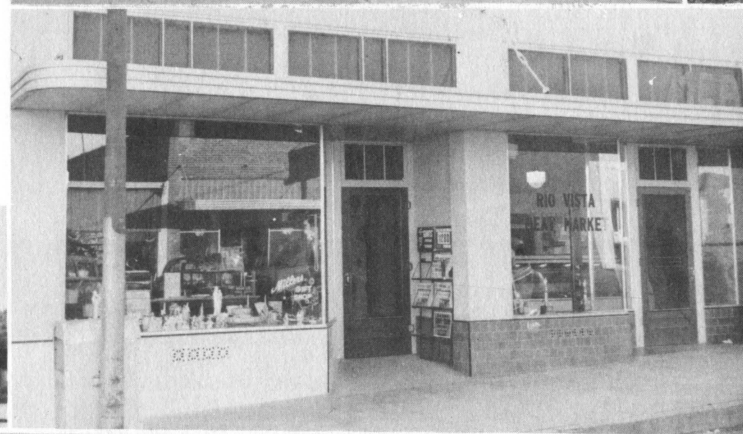


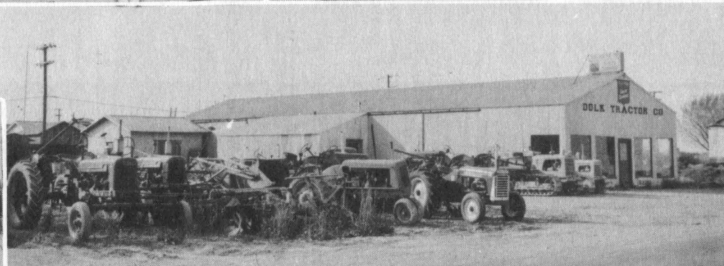
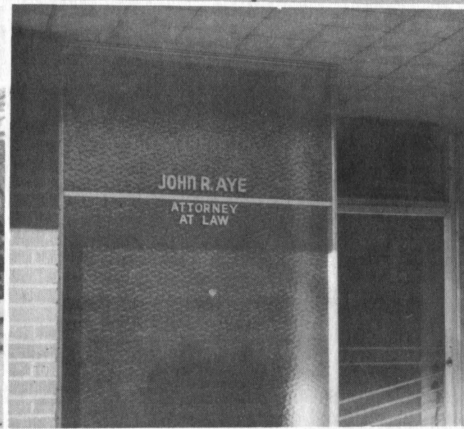
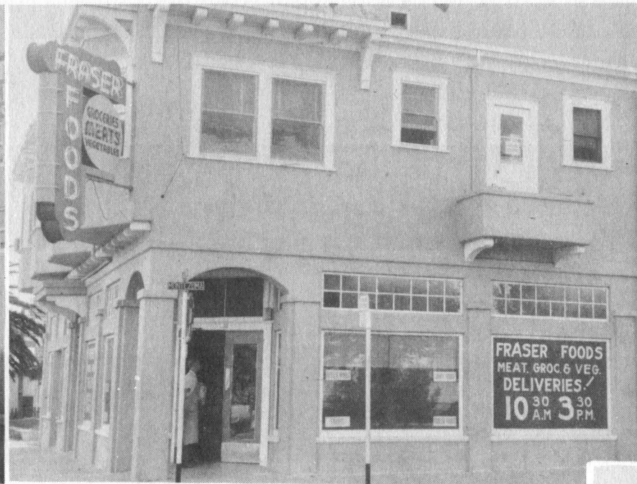
Our business directory runs the gamut of the yellow pages of any comparable small, prosperous city in California.



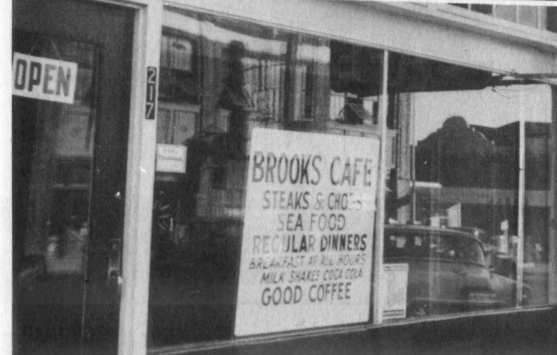
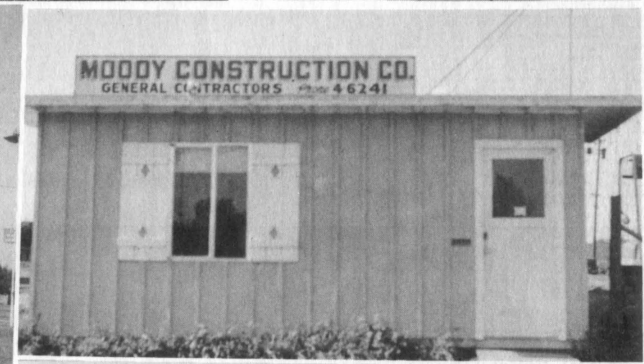
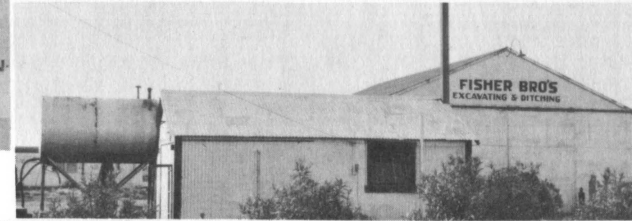
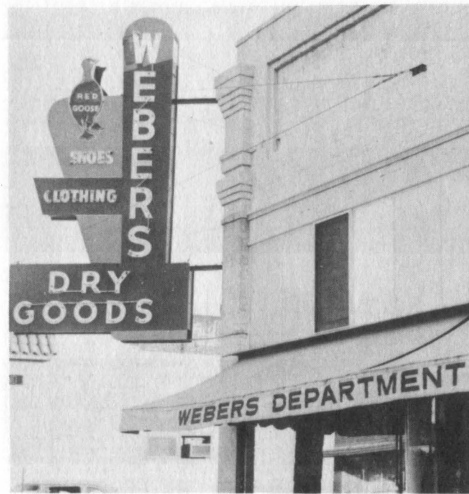


A business failure in our community
is conspicuous by its absence.



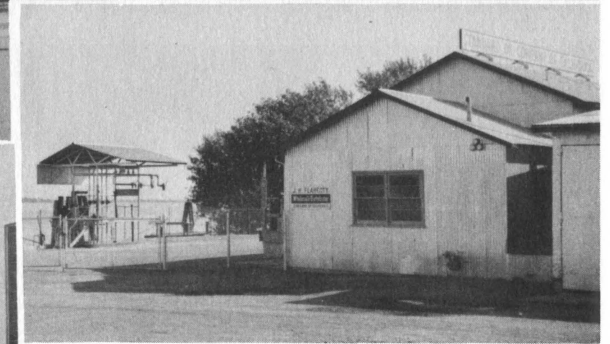
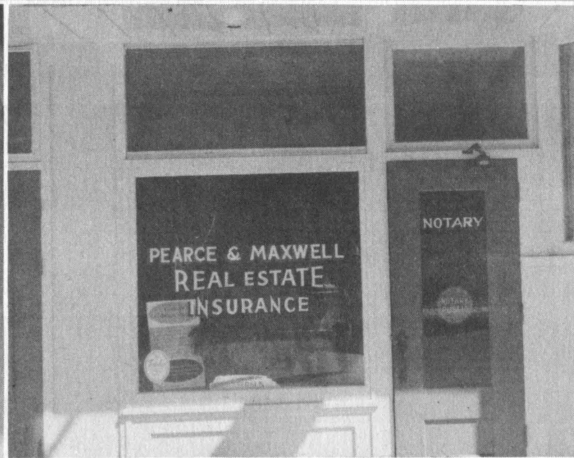
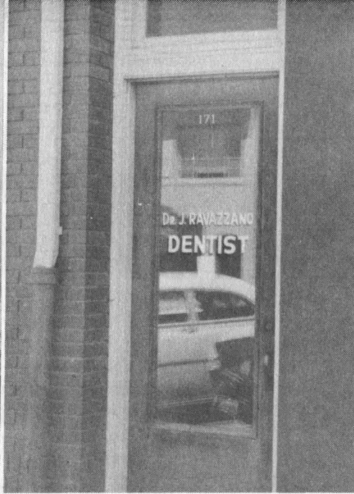
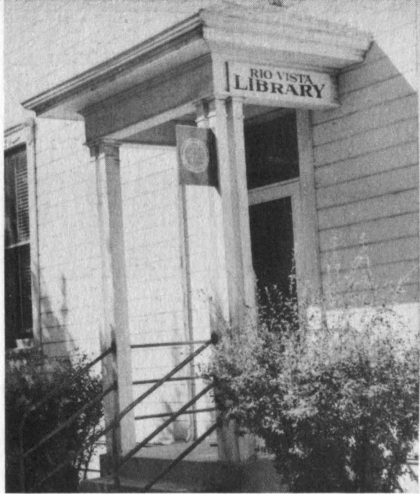


WE HAVE NO EMPTY BUILDINGS
OR VACANT STORE FRONTS

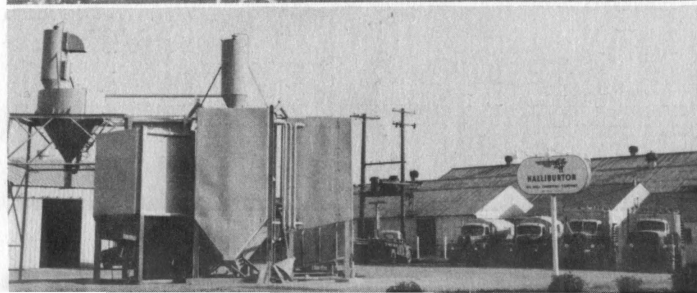
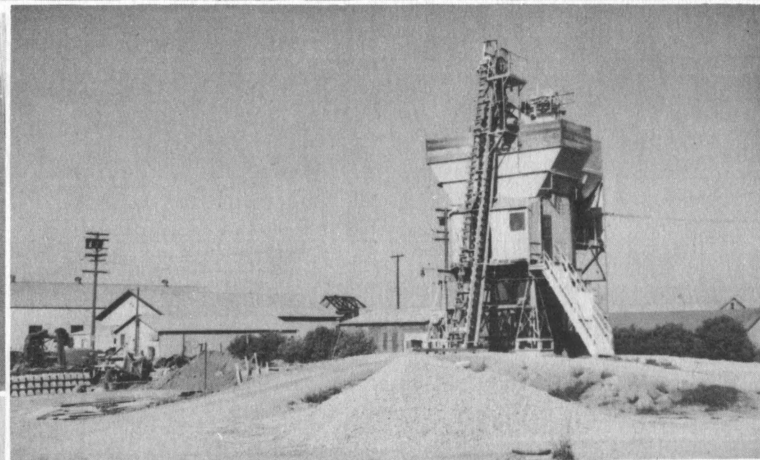


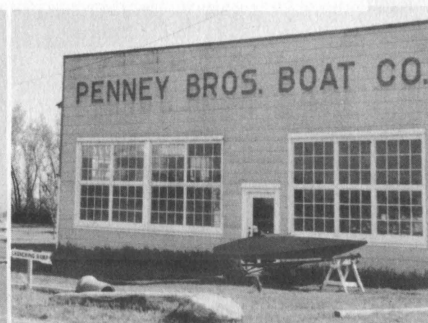
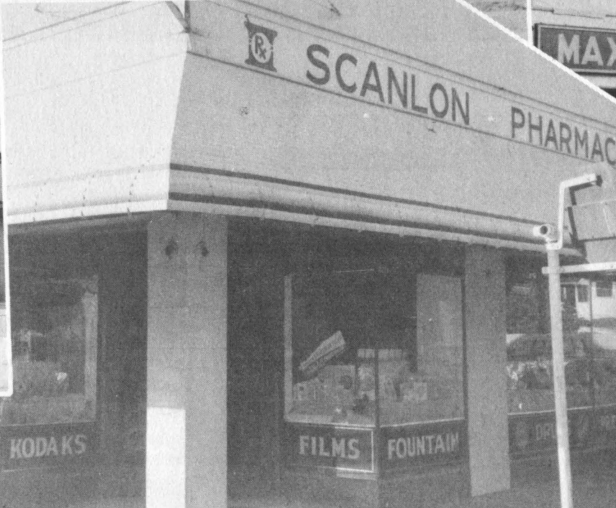
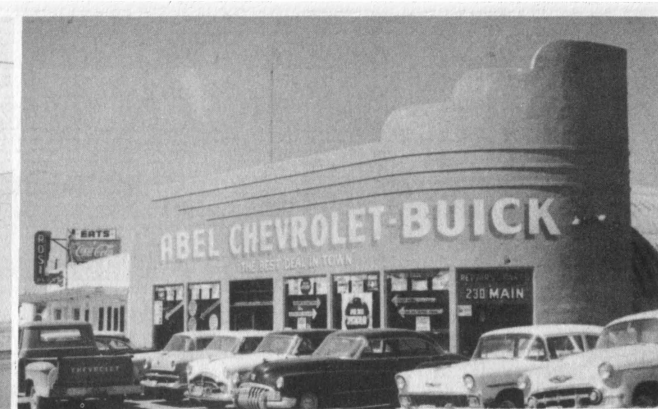
When Rio Vista became a major gas producing area in California, we welcomed many new industries and services.



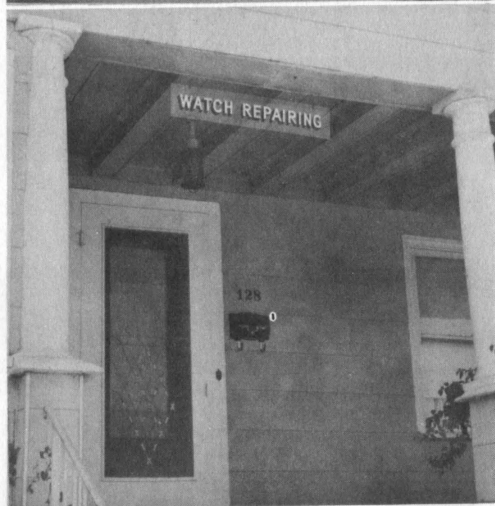
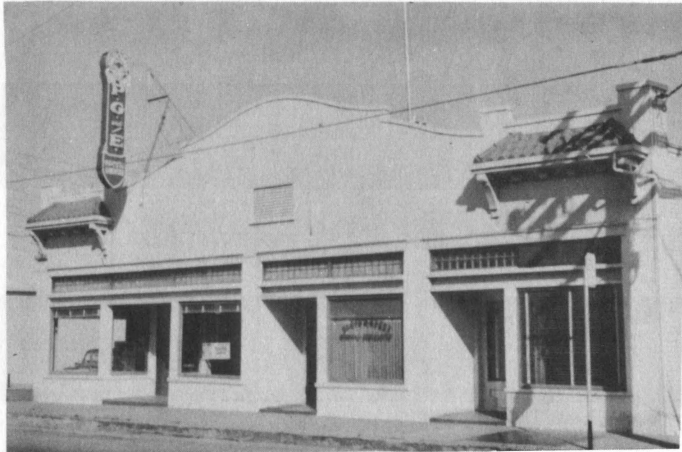


SOME OF OUR PLACES OF
BUSINESS MOVED TO LARGER,
HANDSOMER QUARTERS; OTH-
ERS HAD A FACE LIFTING
WHERE THEY WERE

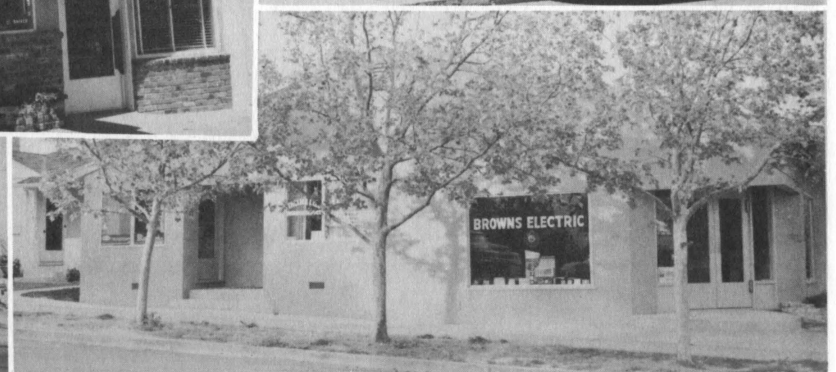
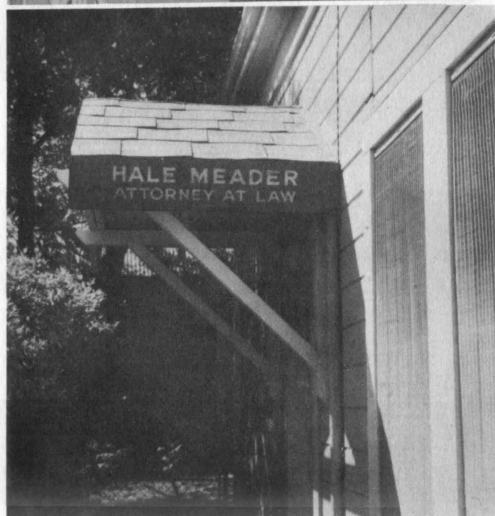
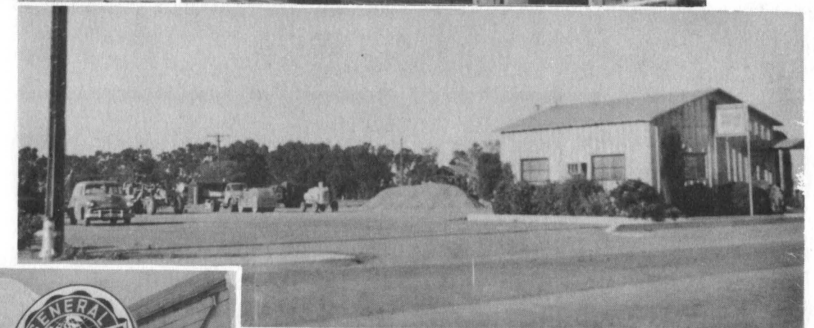


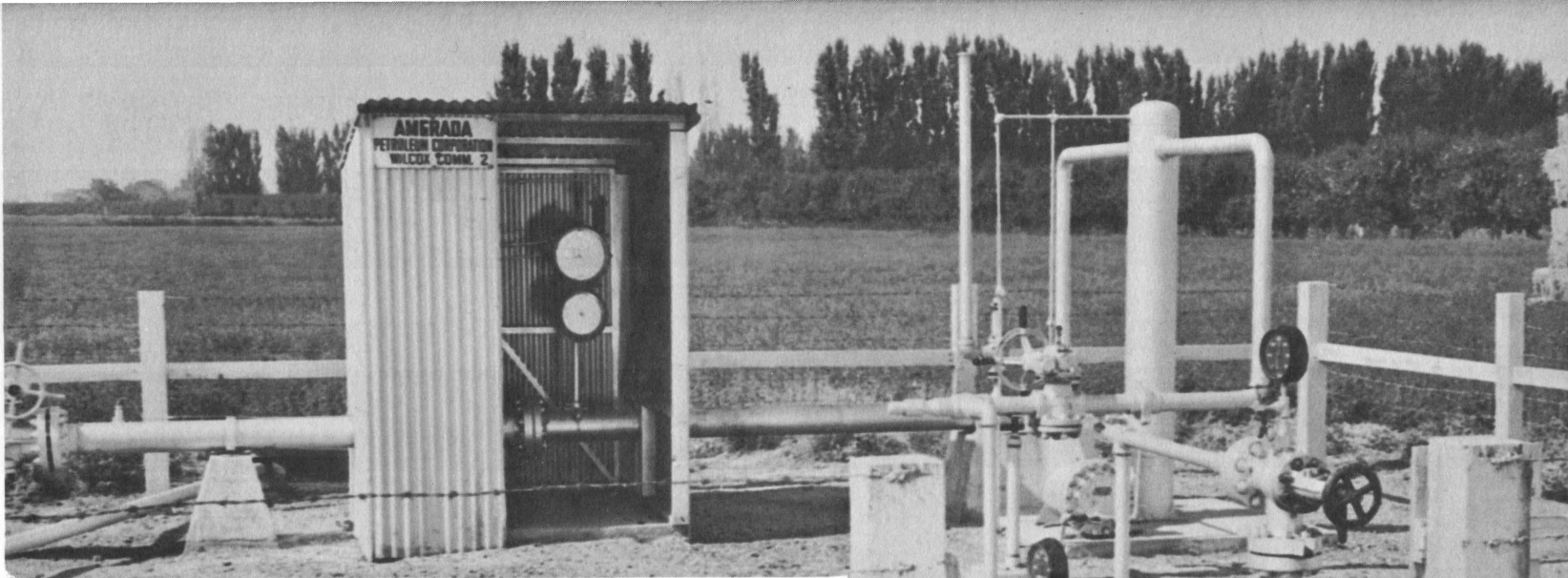


A very large proportion of the young men who graduate from our high school remain in the community to enter business and prosper.



Did *you* Know That
Rio Vista Has So Many
Places Of Business?





The Petroleum Industry Makes Rio Vista a Headliner

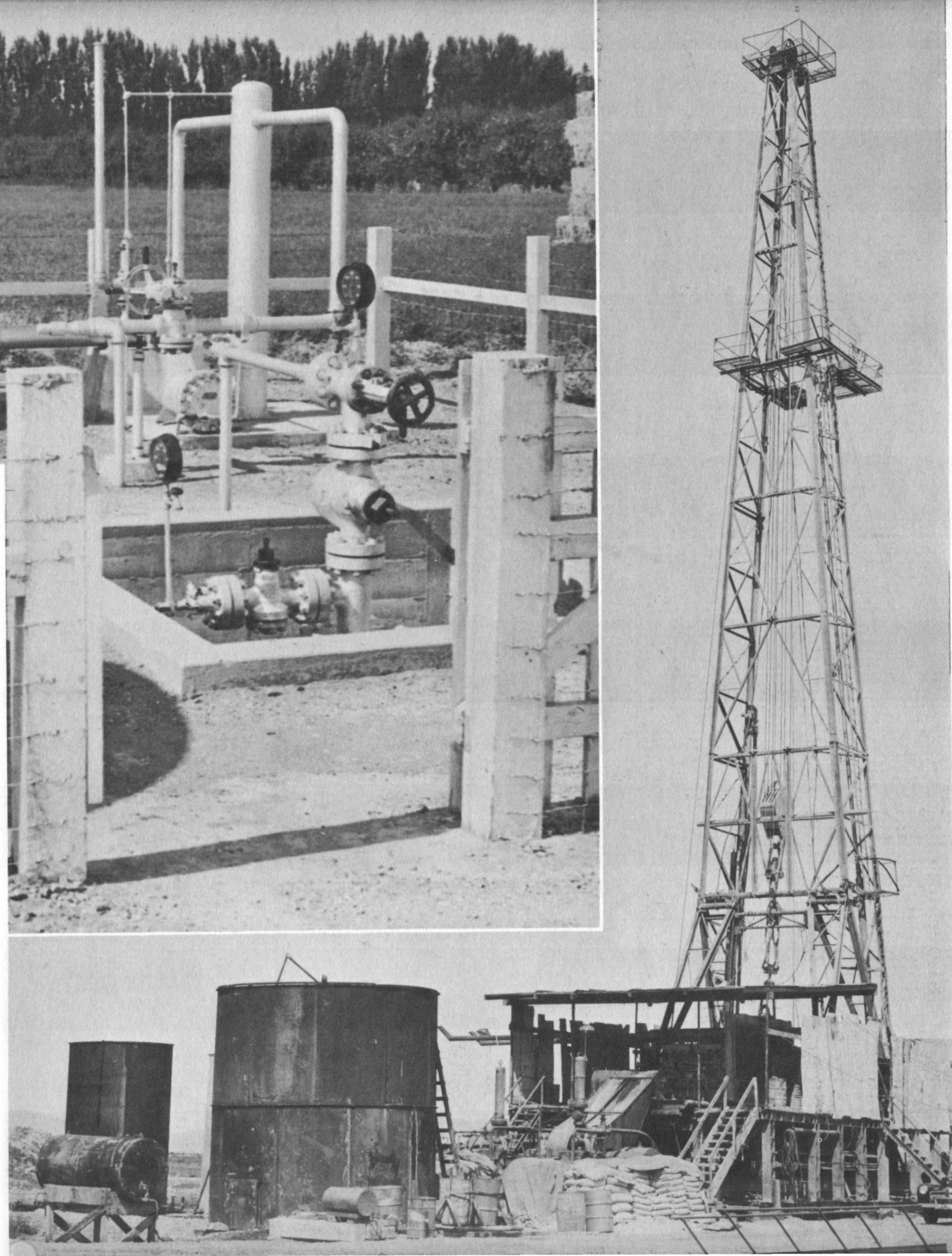
These pictures are the symbols of the wealth, prosperity and distinction which the discovery of a large gas producing field brought to Rio Vista and the surrounding area.

The first well the Emigh No. I was spudded in June 1936 by the Amerada Petroleum Corporation. Other companies which have participated in developing the field are: Standard Oil of California, The Texas Company, Superior Oil Company, Monterey Oil Company, Natural Gas Corporation, Brazos Oil and Gas Company and the Tracy Drilling Company.

Other companies affiliated with well construction are: The Halliburton Cementing Company, McCullough Tool, Brown Service and Oil Well Materials and Hardware Company.

By transferring industrial gas to industry in the Bay Region during the war years, takers were released to the Navy for the purpose of hauling oil overseas. Beyond doubt Rio Vista gas wells did as much for World War II as the Virginia City mines did in winning the Civil War.

By products of this local prosperity include the need for more homes to house personel and the subsequent business which each household brings to the merchants of Rio Vista.



Home Is The Hunter

The BIG HORN bar and restaurant in Rio Vista is unique in that it houses the largest privately owned collection of wild animal trophies in the world. Ninety five percent of the specimens are the game of the owner William Foster who downed them on his many safaris to Africa, India and various points throughout the American continent. Two thousand additional mountings are in storage. Our community is to be congratulated on having access to this fine museum.

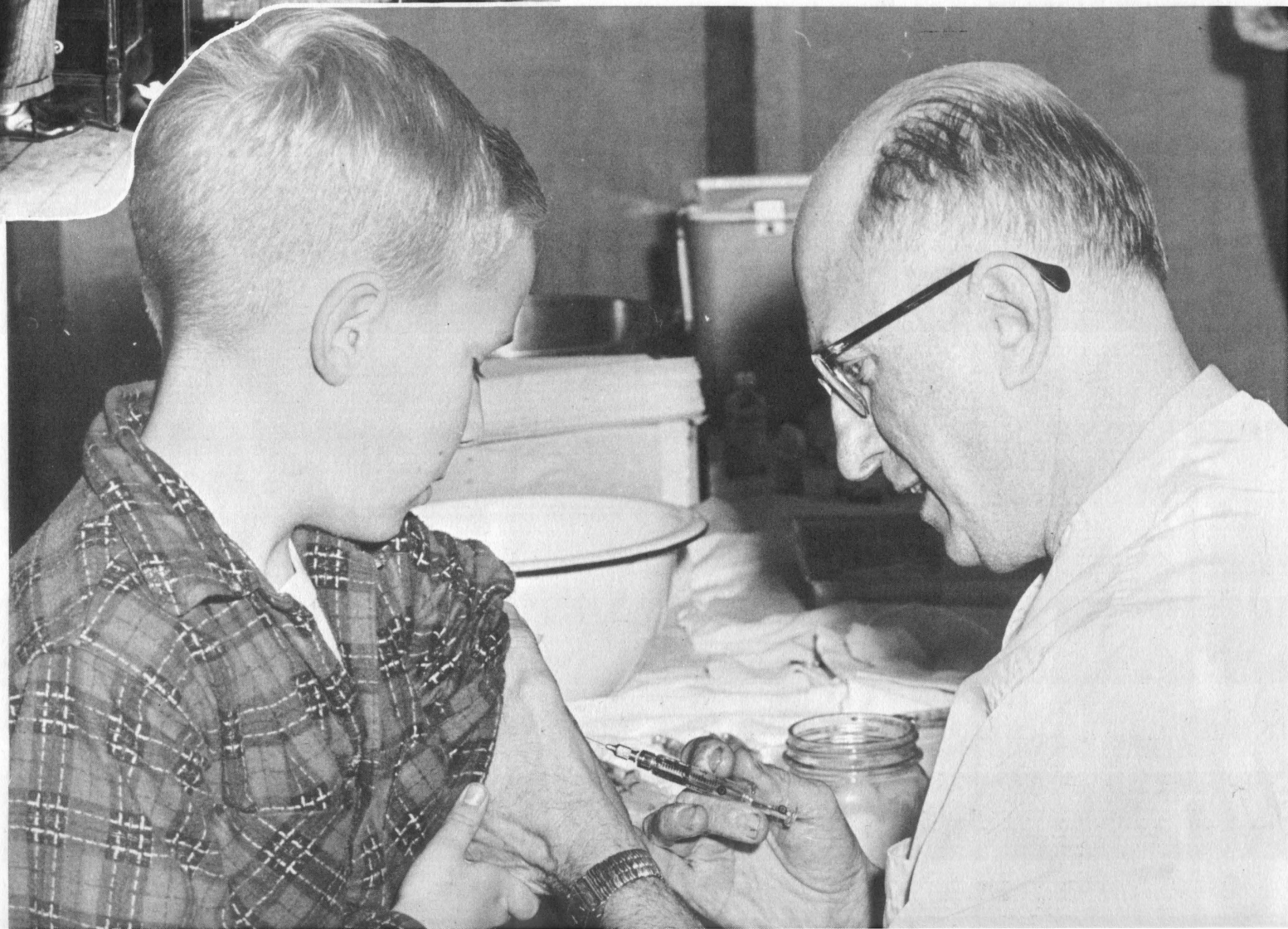




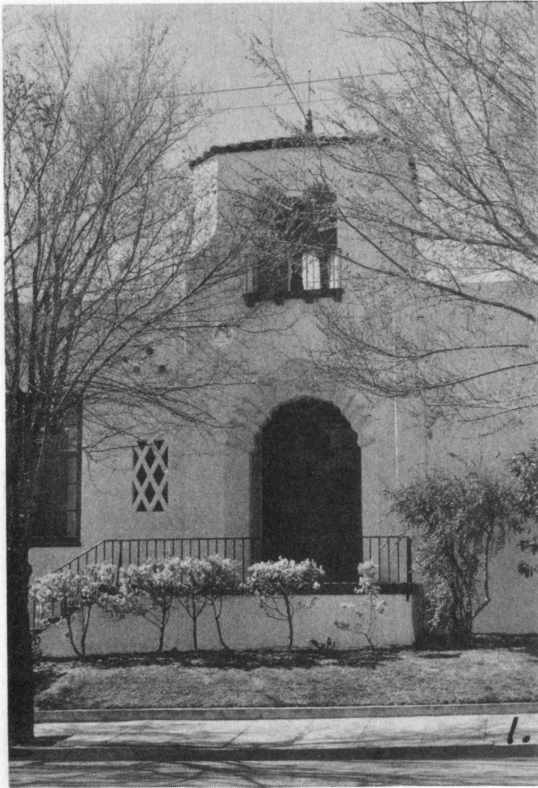
We Keep Pace with Modern Medicine

Above—"Doc" Caldwell studies
a microbe through his new
microscope.

Below—Our own Dr. Ed. Simmer
gives a polio shot to Sridder
Wilkinson ("THIS won't
hurt MUCH")



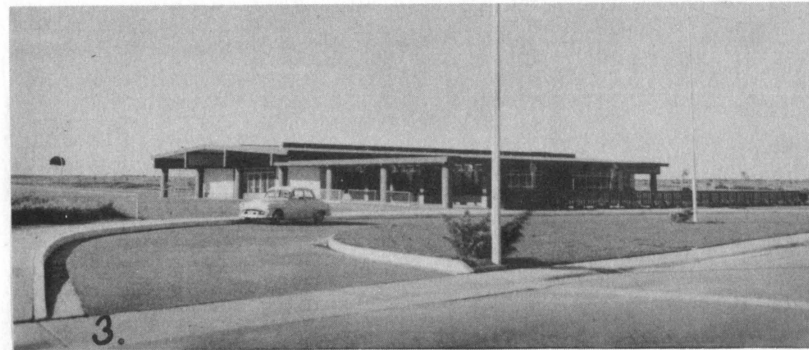
Our Elementary Schools



1. Bruning School



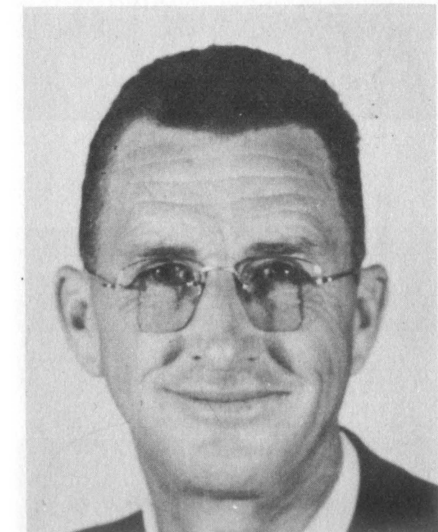
2. Riverview School



3. White School



4. Riverview playground



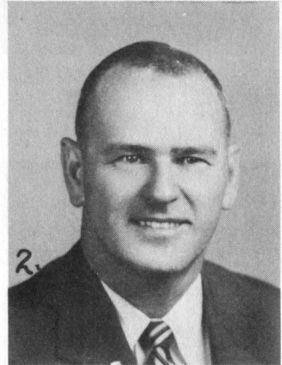
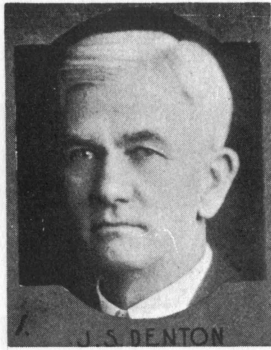
5. Harry Alley, Supt. of schools
(also ex-mayor)

The Bruning School occupies land originally given to the city of Rio Vista by Joseph Bruning in 1895. The two story frame building which first occupied the site was a landmark well known in the Delta.

Our elementary schools now number three. The White School was dedicated to the memory of Dan White, late County Superintendent of Schools.

W. H. K. Dunbar is president of the Board of Trustees; W. P. King is the clerk; George Marshall, J. H. Baumann and Robert Dozier complete the board.

And Our High School

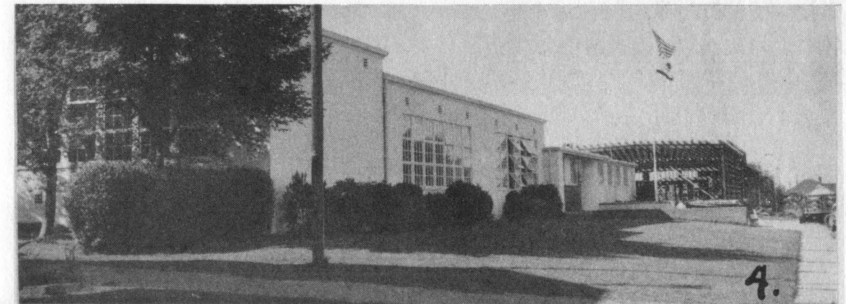


The original high school district was formed in 1912. F. B. Smith was the first principal. Mabel Kalber Duker was the first graduate.

In 1915 J. S. Denton, then principal of the high school, fathered the formation of the Rio Vista Joint Union High School District.

Our fleet of buses gather students from as far as Ryde and Collinsville. Isleton in Sacramento County sends the largest number of pupils from our outlying area. This unification of school districts makes possible the support for a first class high school.

C. R. Hale is the principal and Dist. Supt. Wm. Lothrop is president of the Board; Mrs. Elizabeth McCormack is the clerk; C. O. Butler, N. C. Anderson and Walter McKarley complete the board.



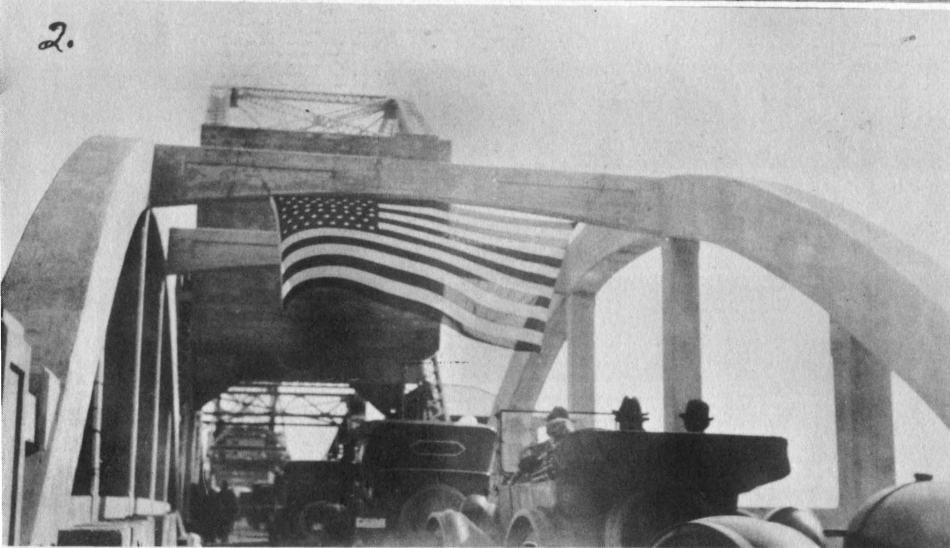
1. J. S. Denton
2. C. R. Hale
3. Rio Vista Joint Union High School
4. Showing the new wing
5. Library and Cafeteria
(under construction)

Rio Vista Bascule Bridge



1.

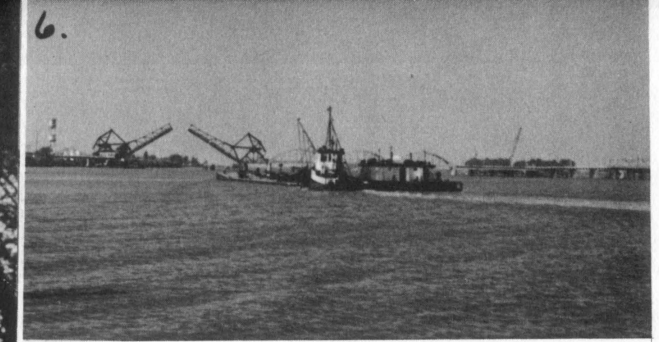
2.



4.



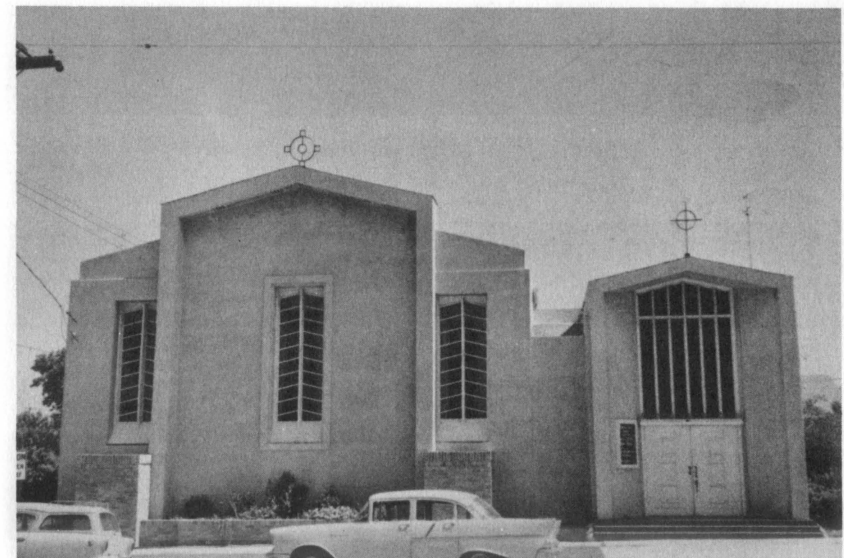
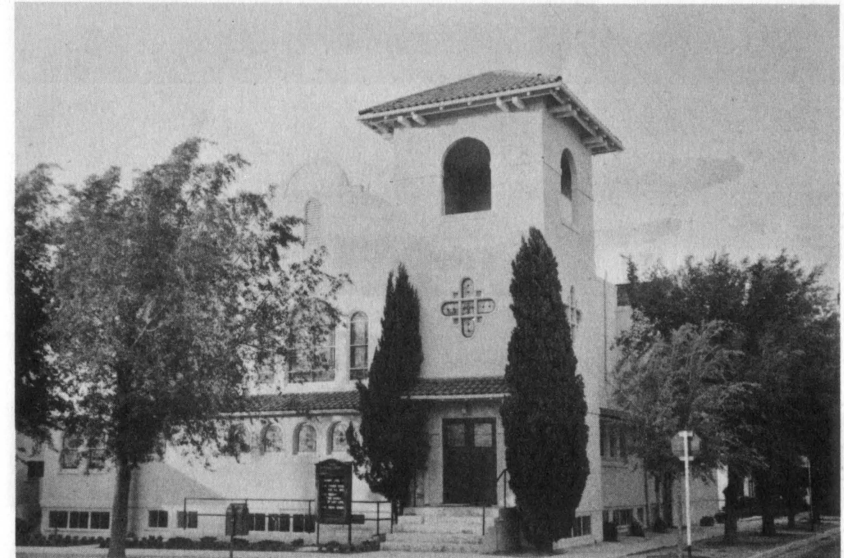
5.



6.

Our bridge has had its "ups and downs" both literally and figuratively. View one shows it as most of us remember it sweeping across the Sacramento River from the east shore. Picture three is of the gala opening in 1916. The bridge was closed in the mid twenties and detoured across Wood Island. View three shows the cantilever spans open. In view four another detour has been provided from the reconstructed long span to make way for new construction over the deep channel. Picture five is a closeup of the new forms at the west end. Six shows our work-a-day bridge going about its business.

Our Churches Are Some of Our Oldest Buildings



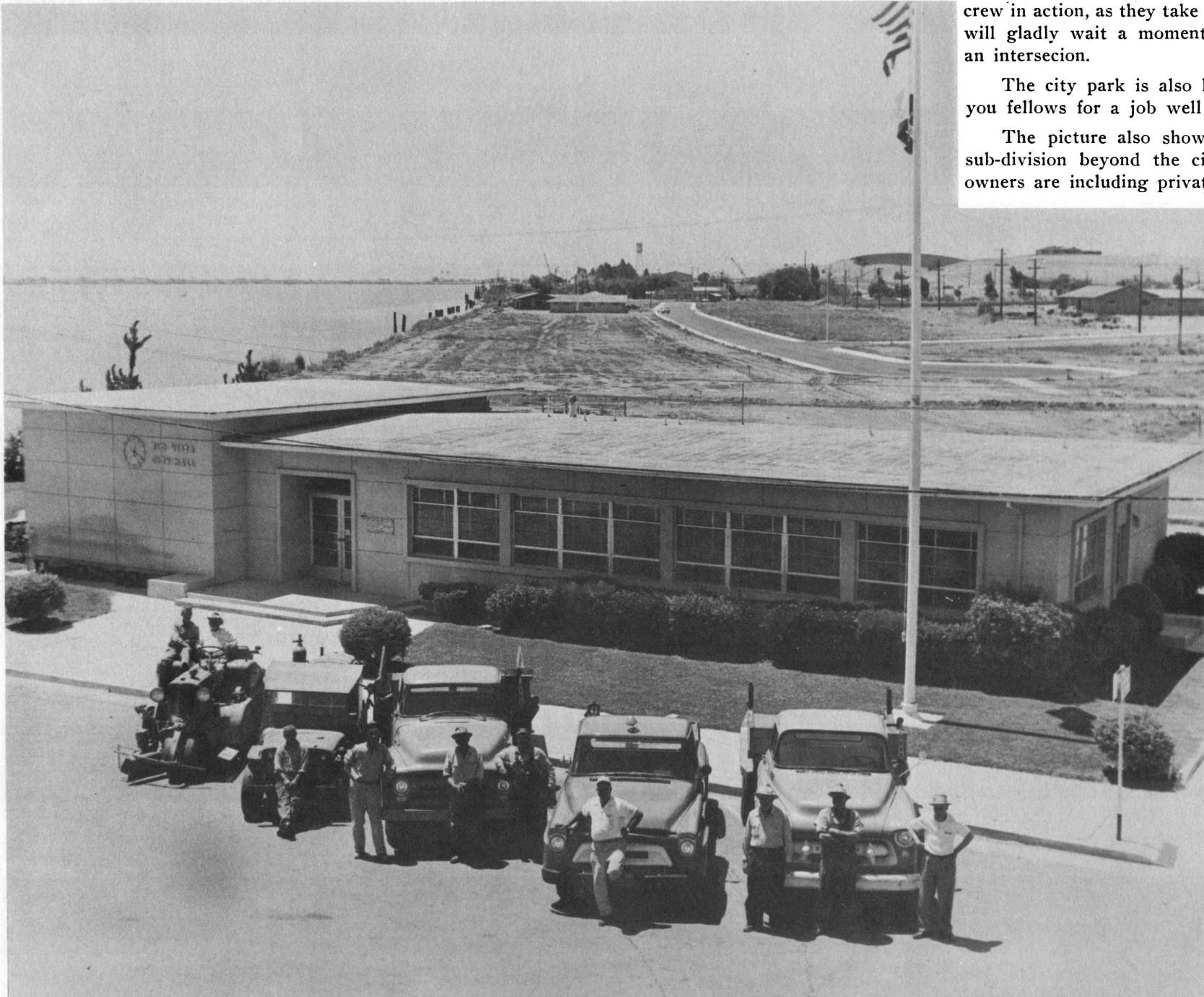
1. The Catholic church was started in June 1868. The taller spire which was razed several years ago was a landmark in the Delta.
2. The Church of Christ holds services in a building at Third and Sacramento.
3. The Baptist Church at Third and Main was remodeled and redecorated this past year.
4. This is the remodeled social hall of the church. The main sanctuary was razed several years ago. This is our second oldest church, having been founded in the Fall of 1868. It is the Congregational Church.

Our Public Works Department Lines Up To Watch The "Birdie"

The citizens of Rio Vista have always been proud of our clean little city. Only early risers ever see our street crew in action, as they take out their equipment. Anyone will gladly wait a moment for the "sweeper" to pass an intersection.

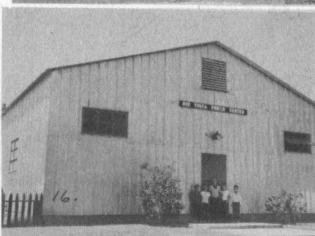
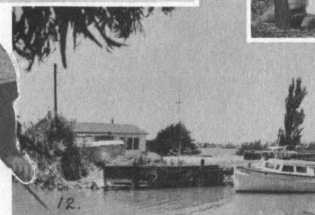
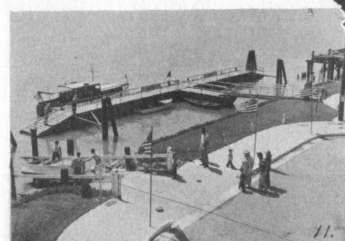
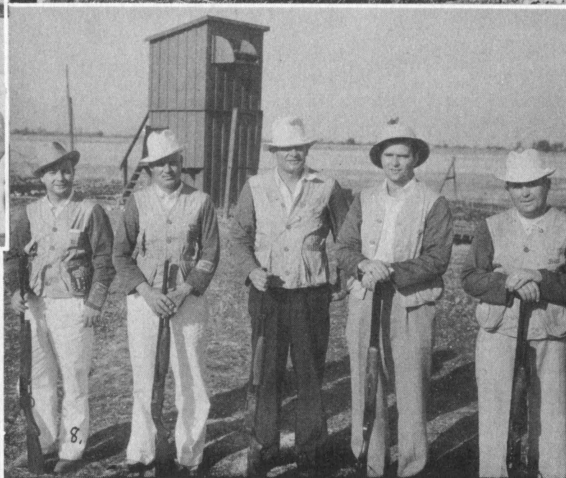
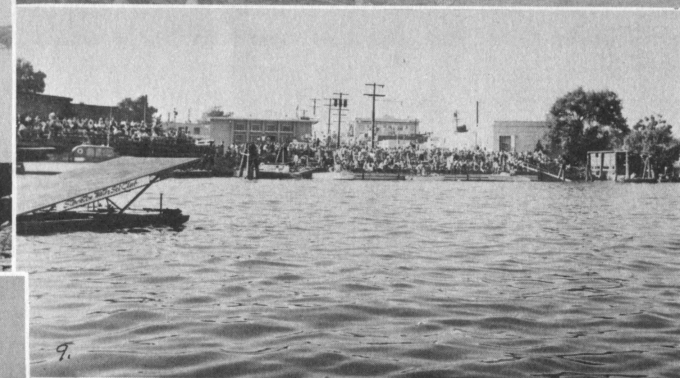
The city park is also kept spic and span. "Thank you fellows for a job well done."

The picture also shows our plush new riverfront sub-division beyond the city hall. The new property owners are including private boat docks in their plans.



Left to Right

1. L. Gomez
2. T. Parks
3. E. Vengley
4. P. Freitas
5. M. Freitas
6. R. Breland
7. T. Correia
8. V. Azevedo
9. J. Marteniano
10. R. Barth—City Engineer

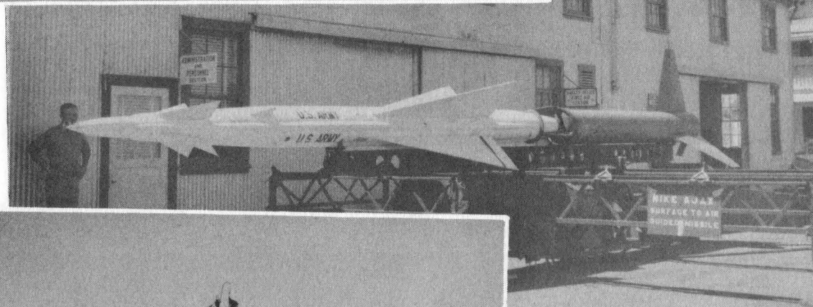
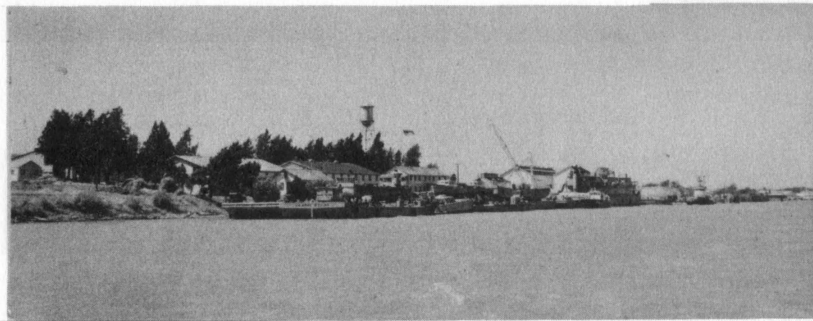
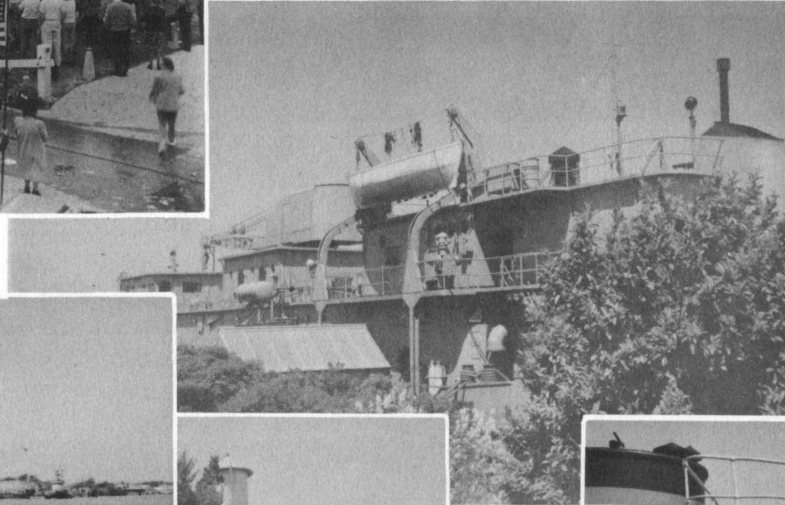


- RECREATION
You Pay Your Money and Take Your Choice
- 1-2. Rio Vista Dancing Club
 3. A day in a boat
 4. A dip in the pool
 5. Rod and reel
 6. Athletic rally down town
 7. Baseball. Home of the Red Sox
 8. Skeet shooting
 9. Water skiing
 10. Folk dancing
 11. Floating dock for sail boats
 12. Sea Scout cabin
 13. Youth has a fling
 14. A swim and picnic in the park
 15. Club house for the kids



Our Marine Storage Base Had An Open House

The Marine Storage Base which employs two hundred and forty people has increased the need for more housing in Rio Vista, as only twenty five percent of the personnel is able to live here. Col. Irwin M. Diamond is in command.





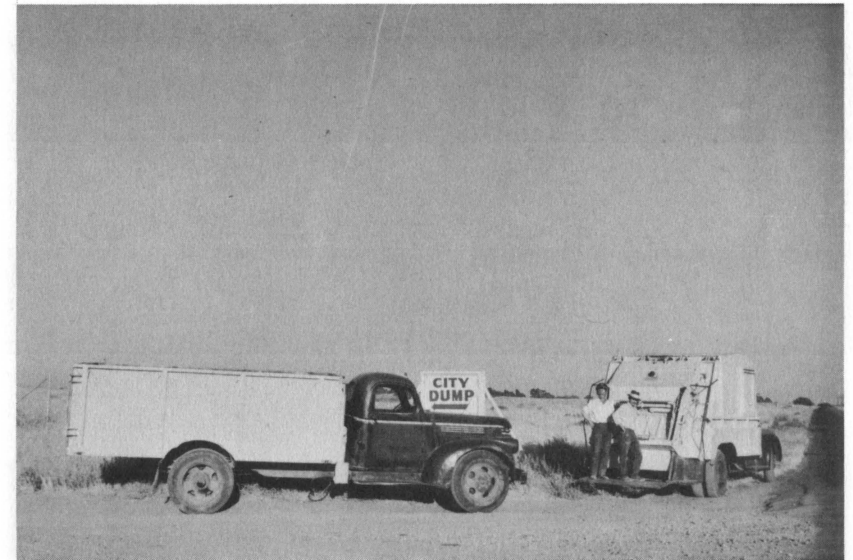
Three Indispensable Services

Our Post Office and crew: (L. to R.):

1. P. Lucke
2. Ellsworth Meanor
3. Hugh Walters
4. H. Lauritzen — Post master
5. Umberti Palestini
6. H. Bruce
7. Ed. Goin
8. Richard Saitori



COLD STORAGE SERVICE
Wayne Heape



SANITARY COLLECTION SERVICE
1. John Rose
2. John Bento



Let Her Go!

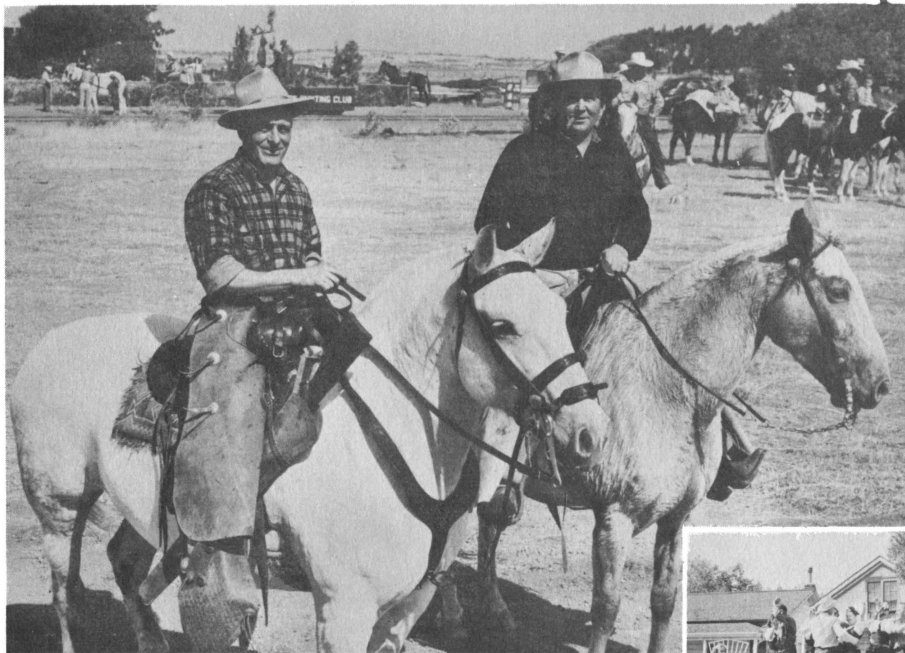
We were so proud in the summer of 1949 when our municipal swimming pool was opened to the public. The picture shows ex-mayor Harry Alley and Beverly Whitaker opening the valves to fill the pool for the first time.

After much controversy the pool was built in the town park. It was a good selection of site as it is convenient to the High School. Every student in Rio Vista High School must pass a swimming test unless excused from participating by a physician.

The pool is the most popular part of Rio Vista's recreation program.

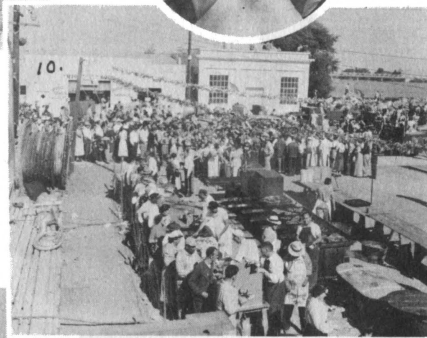
FOR YEARS WE PUT ON *The Bass Derby* WITH GIRLS OF COURSE

AND HORSES, JOE SANTI AND JIM BLACKLOCK "UP"



1. Martha Berry
2. Judy Drefs
3. Barbara Weathers
4. Janet Miller
5. Caroline Lopez
6. Sandy Simmer
7. Lois Anderson
8. Everene Ellingwood

9. Local dance club
10. Bar-B-Q
11. Clarence Anderson and party
12. Hunt Club members: Dan Tonnesen, Harry Hansen on float.





WE Entertained a Distinguished Guest

Chief Justice Earl Warren Then Governor
of California
Is Photographed with Queen
Barbara Stevenson 1949





We Really Went All Out On The Bass Derbies And Water Carnivals

Recent prize winners and Queens are as follows:

	Winner	Wt. of fish	Queen
1956	Mrs. Mona Nielson Suisun Valley, Calif.	42 lbs. 12 oz.	Caroline Lopez
1955	George Matsumoto Sacramento, Calif.	35 lbs. 13 oz.	Claudia Howes
1954	Russell Merritt Dixon, Calif.	29 lbs.	Martha Berry
1953	John Tank Oakland, Calif.	31 lbs. 12 oz.	Sybil Sherman
1952	Sam Clerie Vallejo, Calif.	32 lbs. 10 oz.	Jeanne Elspers- man
1951	W. H. Epperson Fairfield, Calif.	48 lbs. 14 oz.	Beverly Stahl
1950	Clarence Ogden Antioch, Calif.	32 lbs. 10 oz.	Marilyn Miller
1949	W. Evanikall	29 lbs. 5 oz.	Barbara Steven- son

One of the largest bass caught recently is mounted over the bar
at THE STRIPER bar and restaurant of course. Weight over 61 lbs.

(Left to Right)

Betty Blackmore

Gloria Hirschert

Marilyn Miller

Jeannine Elspersman

SHEEP DOG TRIALS, APR. 24



The sheep dog trials annually attract a silent audience as the dogs perform, responding to whistled commands or hand signals only.

A fat lamb auction is also a part of the day's program.

Wallace McCormack put on a driving exhibition, with the Coberly West Clydesdales as a prevue to their appearance at the California Fair Horse Show.

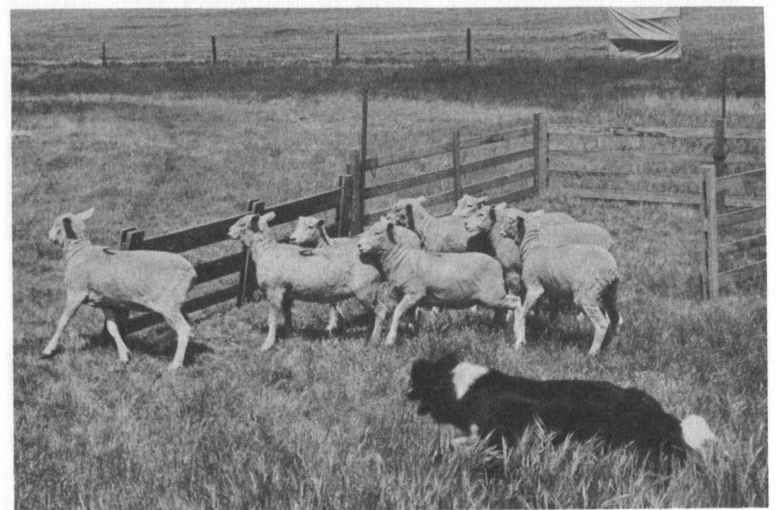
Joe Souza and his tub of chili beans have become a



traditional part of the lamb and beef Bar -B-Q.

Julia Wood, an active member of 4H for many years is shown as she recived her trophy for Reserve Champion Angus from Marden Wilbur of Davis. This picture has been included on this page as a symbol of all the young people of the area who are interested in the rural side of OUR TOWN.

FARM BUREAU BAR-B-Q AND SHEEP DOG
TRIALS AT THE HAMILTON RANCH



We Present with Pride Our Factory The Blackwelder Manufacturing Co.

Picture one at the lower right shows the first site of the young company at Bird's Landing in 1900 where the firm remained until 1917.

Before the shop was built in Rio Vista in 1935 there had been one in Isleton for several years. Picture two shows the Blackwelder Iron works where twenty one men are employed.

In 1943 a group of Delta men developed the Marbeet harvester. An additional site for the new Blackwelder Manufacturing Co. was secured on the outskirts of OUR TOWN, picture three. One hundred and thirty men are employed. The markets of the company are world wide.

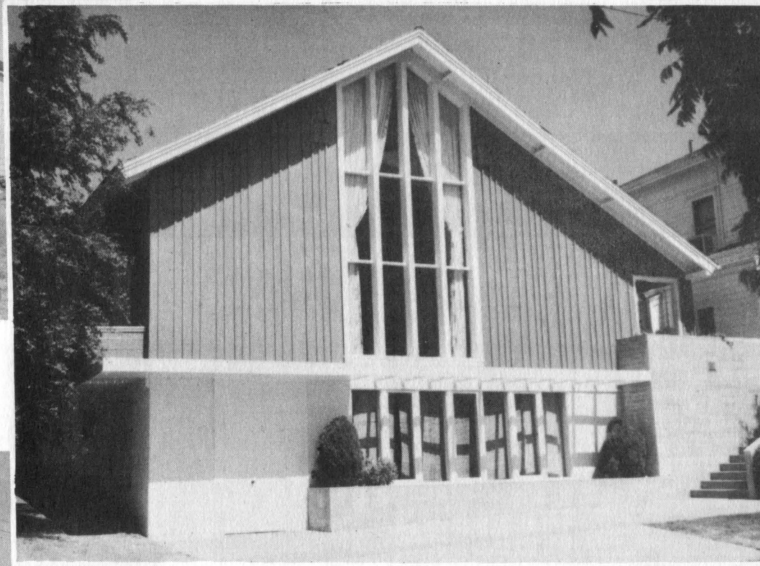
All the direct descendants of Mr. Blackwelder were born in Solano Co. and are employed in the firm which is entirely family owned. They include sons Ernest and Irving and daughter Mildred, and grandsons Bert and Irving, and George Tudhope.



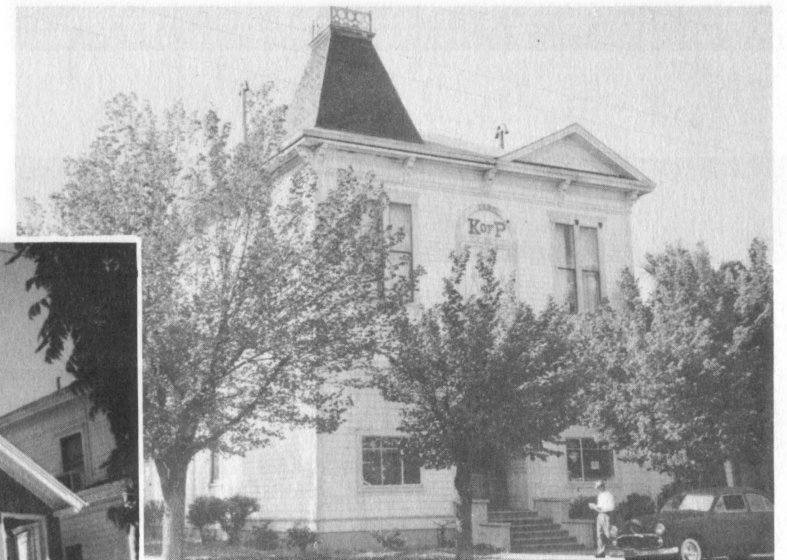
MOST OF US
ARE JOINERS



I.D.E.S. PORTUGUESE HALL



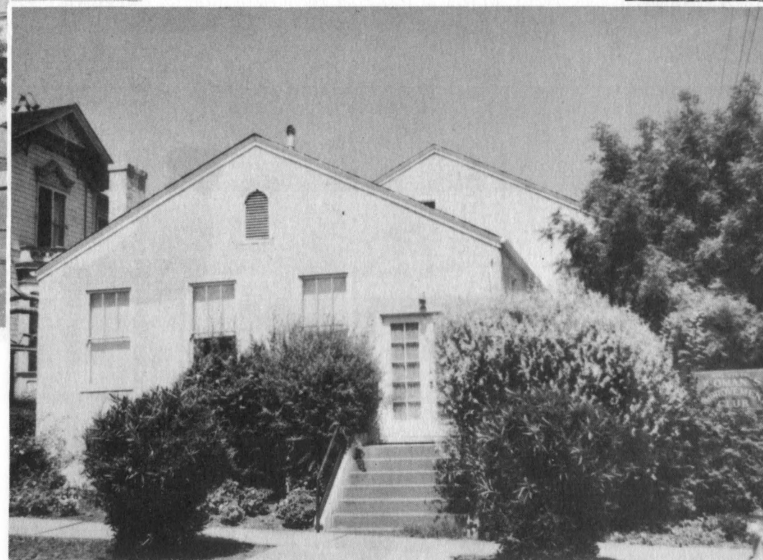
CATHOLIC SOCIAL HALL



KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS HALL



MASONIC HALL



WOMAN'S IMPROVEMENT CLUB



VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING

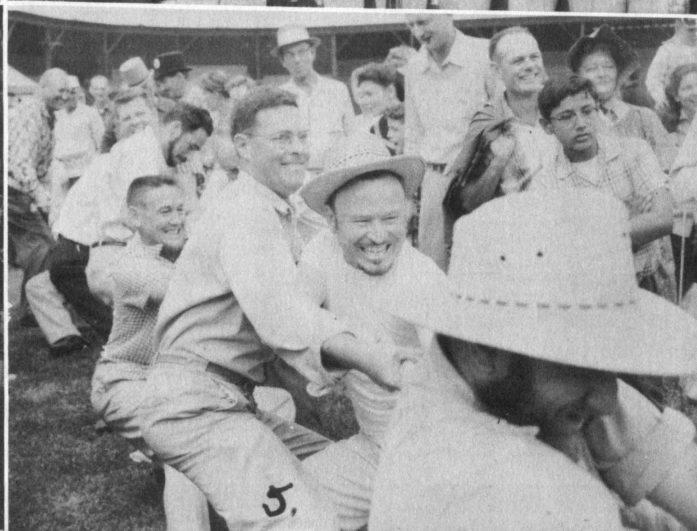
... and now our

1858

RIO VISTA CENTENNIAL

1958

*with something every
week end, June 1 to Sept. 30*



We Kicked Off Our Centennial

1. With a dinner
2. And a Bar-B-Q with a show
3. Ballons to the moon
4. A three ring circus. (Committee)
5. A tug-of-war
6. The penny scramble
7. Lo! The greased porker
8. Amateur show winners

The arrangements for the events at the Bar-B-Q were under the direction of Col. Diamond and his crews from the Marine Storage Base.



Caught In The Act





"And the Villain Still Pursued Her"



We Cheered The Hero and Hissed The Villain at Our "Meller-Drammer"

The V.F.W. and Auxiliary, under the direction of Bonnie Adcock presented "Wandering Boy" and "Fanny, The Farmer's Daughter" at the Youth Center. The casts included Bob Dunn, Barbara Davis, Mattie Hartzell, Dorothy Cain, Vince Azevedo, Howard Calinoff, Sandra Martin, Geneva Endsley, Philip and Sharon Salaices, Gladys Silva, Laura Yorg and Wanda DaCruz.

Our Baseball Park Will Be Known As Egbert Field

"Egbert Field" was dedicated July 20, 1958 in the "name of good sportsmanship" as more than 700 persons witnessed Rio Vista's baseball talent, young and old on parade. Mrs. E. S. Egbert graciously accepted the plaque in memory of her late husband. Ernest Blackwelder and Mayor James W. Hamilton, Jr. gave the introductory remarks.

Above (left to right): Ernest Blackwelder, Mrs. E. S. Egbert, Mayor James W. Hamilton, Jr.

Upper right: Some of the old timers: Master of Ceremonies Perry Edwards, hidden behind the mike is Harold Elliott, Sr., Buster Nelson, John Hoffman, Herbert Stevenson, Neil Anderson and Manuel Valine.

Lower right: The line-up of players on parade.





THIS WEEK'S SHOW

JUNE 30th thru JULY 6th

"Finian's Rainbow"

Book by E. Y. HARBURG and FRED SAIDY
Lyrics by E. Y. HARBURG
Music by BURTON LANE

AT SACRAMENTO LIGHT OPERA ASSOCIATION'S

Music Circus 15th and H Streets Sacramento

Produced by Russell Lewis and Howard Young
Presented by the Sacramento Civic Repertory Theater
Sponsored by the Sacramento Bee and KFBK



Sisters of the Swish

AND THEIR BEAUX
STOP THE SHOW IN
SACRAMENTO AT
THE MUSIC CIRCUS
BY THE WAY —
HOW *are* THINGS
IN GLOCCA MORRA?





Centennial Baby Show

The above lads and lassies brought home the ribbons.

TOP ROW L. to R.

Mark Hagen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Hagen

Nancy Monez, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Monez

Alice Jean Damron, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Damron

BOTTOM ROW L. to R.

Wallene Jessee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Jessee

Steven Penney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Penney

Scott Stewart, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart

Ronald James Mertz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mertz (inset)

Took a dim view of the whole affair.



Y.L.I.

The Y. L. I. girls jumped the gun on the Centennial KICK OFF with a luncheon.

Not satisfied with that, they adjourned to the Bank of Rio Visa during the formal reopening and sang an impromptu concert for enjoyment of all.

S-w-e-e-t A-do-o-o- line!

Upper (Left to Right)

1. Gladys Silva
2. Laura Yorg
3. Ellen Jeffery
4. Rose Marks
5. Margaret Hammerstrom
6. Betty Baker

Lower (Left to Right)

1. Betty Baker
2. Alma Robinson
3. Gladys Silva
4. Laura Yorg

Sea Scout Bean Feed

Guests went by water taxi from the "main-land" to the Sea Scout Cabin for a bean feed. In the line up we find J. Quintana, K. Tyler, unidentified, Mayor Hamilton and Supervisor Church. "Bud" Blackwelder is "at your service".





Cancan Girls and Friends

During the Centennial most places of business in Rio Vista turned out the "help" in costume. Our streets were very gay on the week ends of June, July, August and September. Doris Tatum was wardrobe mistress at the Big Horn.

TOP ROW L. TO R.

1. Jean Torres
2. Doris Tatum
3. Lee Grundon

LOWER ROW

1. Unidentified customer
2. Bill Foster
3. Maxine Thomas
4. Mayor Jim Hamilton
5. Jerry Brown
6. Nan Spivey
7. Ed. Snyder
8. Judy Tatum

Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast

The Lions man the kitchen once a year to serve pancakes and sausages to all comers. The proceeds go to support The YOUTH CENTER, a project of this group.

L. to R.

Ray Donnelly

Ross Furlong

Norman Brown

Carl Kelly

Henry Brown

Irryng Blackwelder

John Aye

James Maxwell





The Kids Had A Pet Parade

Snakes, guinea pigs, rats, rabbits, dogs, cats all were on parade at the pet show. Sponsored by the Rio Vista recreation department, Al Taylor director, with Mrs. Jenny Bohlman, Walter McKarley and Mayor James W. Hamilton Judges.

Upper left: (left to right) Dorothy DeWitt, Carolyn Wilson, and Vicki Bennett.

Upper right: Clista Walker and Steven Azevedo

Lower left: (left to right) Floyd Damron, Carol Woods, Cathy Ferreira, Cindy Ferreira Cynthia Bader.

Lower right: (left to right) Larry Davis, Jim McCracken and John Callahan.

